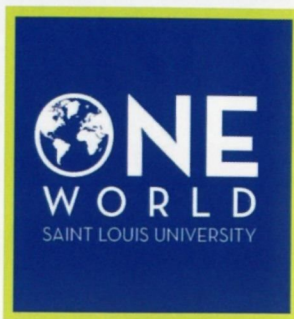


SPRING 2025

Womened

WOMEN'S
MAGAZINE

RENEWING RESISTANCE



VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2

Spring 2025

OneWorld Magazine

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Letter From the Editor-in-Chief



Birch Fábregas

Editor-in-Chief, Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

Senior | Biology (Biological Chemistry and Molecular Biology) | Spanish | Public Health

This past April, a member of the American Civil Liberties Union reached out to OneWorld Magazine. The ACLU is a non-profit dedicated to protecting our legal rights: immigrant rights, trans rights, reproductive rights, and many more. This member served as Editor-in-Chief for OneWorld over a decade ago; now, she works for an organization that “dares to create a more perfect union.” In a full circle moment, the ACLU was one of the many sources we used for our Protest Safety Workshop.

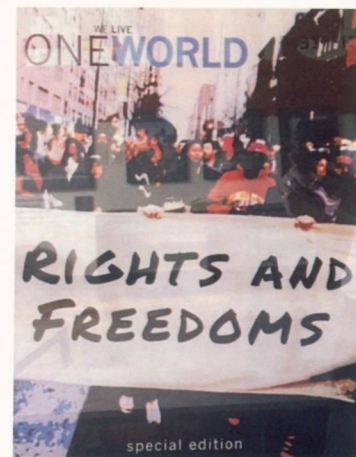
Our Spring 2025 semester theme, “Renewing Resistance,” is one that exemplifies the above connection. It addresses the reinvigoration — the rebuilding — of resistance after waves of protest and suppression. The following articles ask: What do we do during the in-between moments, when it seems as though the fires of resistance have cooled to embers, or perhaps been put out entirely? How does a movement persist when it becomes isolated, or its members have been jailed, silenced or even killed? These articles reply: We have been here before. Resistance means ensuring we will not go back.

“Word of Warrants” by Ava Walker gives us the tools to distinguish between ICE’s most commonly-used warrants. “A Prophetic Warning” by Miit Shah discusses the cycle of recurring wildfires in California. “Tongues of the Earth” by Alexandra Ogarrio warns us against the destruction of linguistic imperialism, both past and present. We also have a few poems in this semester’s edition, invoking the strength movements have found in political art. “[Redacted]” by Marisa Bugarin expresses the conflict between duty and fear when daring to speak out. “Kindling the Resistance” by Elina Reed defies the recent censorship of literature. To my writers and designers, you have done stunning work once again. Thank you for your passion.

It is easy, painfully easy, to slip into a state of defeat. Doomerism. Yet one of our gravest

responsibilities is continuing to hope — to hope and to take action. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke on this campus in 1964. To invoke one of his most famous quotes: If injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, then one person resisting somewhere is an asset to us all. Continue to support our trans siblings. Continue to condemn ICE’s encroachment on our communities. Continue to keep your eyes on Palestine. There is value in your resistance. This is also why Ursula K. Le Guin’s quote adorns the back of this magazine. The structures in place that cause us harm are human-made; because we are human, we can and will reverse that harm. That process begins here.

Posters of our earliest editions remain in the Center for Global Citizenship. Renewing resistance means recognizing that it has not disappeared. It has been lying in wait. For the right people, the right time or the right place — regardless, it remains.



My two years as Editor-in-Chief have been eventful ones. I’m proud, deeply proud, of every writer and designer who has contributed to the magazine. I’m honored to have served you, OneWorld and the SLU community.

Thank you and be well.

OneWorld Magazine Statement on Generative A.I.

This statement, and its resulting guidelines, have been adapted from BIOL-4635-50's Spring 2025 Semester syllabus and Saint Louis University's Academic Integrity Policy. The below will be incorporated into our constitution. These guidelines will officially go into effect during the Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 semester and beyond.

Generative A.I., including but not limited to ChatGPT, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Midjourney, DALL-E or Github Copilot may not be used in contribution to OneWorld Magazine. As stated by Dr. Ashley Milam, a professor at SLU, "the use of such generative A.I. tools may compromise your learning by undermining your ability to analyze data narrative and formulate/create non-derivative creative work."

Additionally, such use compromises the integrity of this magazine as a social justice institution and as an original product by and for the SLU community. Issues surrounding fair use and copyright remain unresolved. The environmental impact of A.I. usage threatens our planet's future. A report from the United Nations' Environment Programme, for example, states that A.I.'s demand for water is projected to consume six to four times more water than Denmark.

As such, no part of OneWorld Magazine, from all aspects of writing to design, may incorporate the use or products of Generative A.I. Writing includes brainstorming topics/titles, writing pitches, creating outlines, doing research, citing sources, writing, and revising/editing the final draft. Design includes brainstorming motifs, generating images, and editing designs.

Moreover, the use of A.I. can fall under the umbrella of plagiarism, as described by SLU's

Academic Integrity Policy. These points state "without proper citation." However, OneWorld Magazine provides these points for clarification on what SLU defines as A.I. contribution to assist in your understanding. No A.I. work may be used for the magazine, regardless of citation.

- "Directly presenting the written, artistic, or spoken work generated or created by someone other than the student, by artificial intelligence, or by other technology without quotation marks or indented quotations and without proper citation to the source."
- "Paraphrasing or incorporating the ideas, concepts, arguments, observations, images, objects, music, or statements generated or created by someone other than the student, by artificial intelligence, or by other technology without proper citation of the source."
- "Presenting information from the internet, produced by artificial intelligence, or by other technology so that it appears to be the student's own work."
- "Submitting as the student's own, any work that has been prepared, either entirely or in part, by another person, group, commercial firm, artificial intelligence, or by other technology without proper citation."

We have a responsibility to ourselves, to the magazine, and to our readers to provide original work. This is especially true when we claim to be a social justice magazine — our writing and art must be fueled by passion, human passion, to create a more equitable world.

A Prophetic Warning



MILT SHAH

HE/HIM

SENIOR | PUBLIC HEALTH | BIOLOGY

"There is no end to what a living world will demand of you."

— "Parable of the Sower"

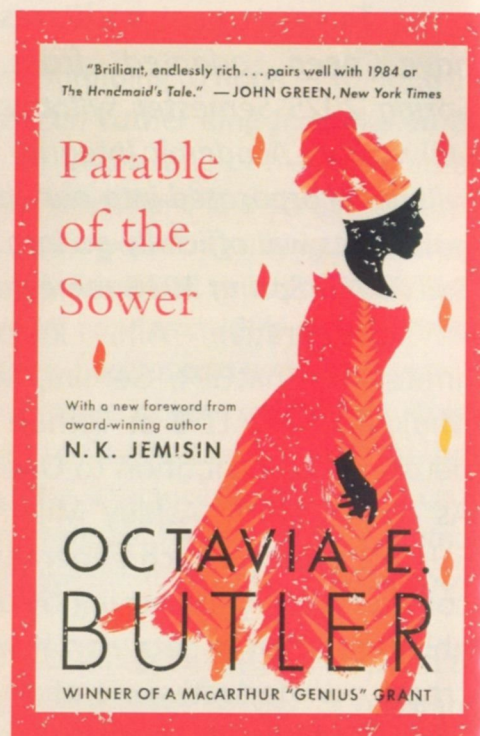
The world is burning, literally and metaphorically. California's wildfires rage on, extreme storms devastate communities, and rising seas swallow coastlines. Climate disasters are occurring everyday, in all parts of the globe. Meanwhile, political leaders like President Donald Trump have twice withdrawn the United States from the Paris Climate Accords, delaying necessary global action for the protection of our planet. The cycle of destruction, activism and renewal has never been more crucial.

Octavia Butler's "Parable of the Sower," written in

1993, envisioned a future shaped by environmental collapse, resilience and resistance — a future that now feels harrowingly real. The question is no longer whether we are living in Butler's world; it is how we choose to respond. Will we let climate disasters dictate our future, or will we fight for our shared home and retrieve what has been lost? In the face of catastrophe, one thing is clear: we must revive, resist and repeat.

Octavia Butler's "Parable of the Sower" was published in 1993, but its vision of a society unraveling under the weight of climate change and political failure is eerily relevant in modern times. In the novel, wildfires rage across California, water has become a privatized necessity, and social order has broken down, leaving only the wealthy with access to basic needs. These are no longer distant dystopian warnings; they are our present reality.

Within Butler's novel, California is consumed by



relentless wildfires, leading to widespread destruction and societal collapse. This is mirrored in the 2017 California wildfires, which were unprecedented at the time; over 9,000 fires burned 1.2 million acres and destroyed more than 10,800 structures. The California Incident Archive now lists the 2020 wildfire season as far surpassing records, with 8,600 fires, 4.3 million acres burned, and a resulting 33 fatalities. The scale and frequency of these fire seasons are reflected in Butler's world,



in which climate instability is the backdrop for human displacement and economic breakdown. Cal Matters, a nonprofit reporting nonpartisan news, states that within the three major evacuation zones, the Latino population holds 36% of workers despite making up 23% of the population. Housekeepers, gardeners and landscapers all lost their jobs due to these fires, yet unemployment aid was not offered to undocumented residents. 90% of the house cleaners in California, 80% foreign-born, are at risk to have permanent income loss.

This inequity is mirrored in Butler's novel, where the wealthy build walled enclaves while the vulnerable are left exposed to the brutality of climate change. The Marshall wildfire in my home state of Colorado was one of the most destructive wildfires, with NOAA reporting over 1,000 homes burned down and tens of thousands of residents evacuated. This fire was about 30 minutes away

from my own home, and I could see billowing smoke in the distance from my backyard, and I questioned whether I myself would have to evacuate. Outside, wind conditions of 115 mph covered Boulder County in a thick haze of smoke and exacerbated the fire's swift progression. Akin to Butler's world, unpredictable weather patterns strike all over the country and lead to total environmental instability.

Water is scarcer than oil, access is privatized, and social breakdown follows in the wake of prolonged drought. Butler's depiction of a society devastated by climate-induced water scarcity is an accurate prediction of current conditions in the American West. The western United States is experiencing its worst drought in over 1,200 years, a "megadrought" exacerbated by man-made climate change. A recent study published in *Nature Climate Change* found that the 2000-2021 drought period was the driest two decades in the region since at least 800 C.E.,

with human-caused climate change responsible for over 40% of its severity.

In California, reduced snowpack in the Sierra Nevada has diminished reservoir levels, and the drying of major water sources like the Colorado River have caused widespread water rationing and emergency policies. These issues parallel Butler's world, where fresh water is a luxury afforded only to the rich, and city infrastructure collapses under the strain of resource scarcity. In the novel, water is sold by the bottle at exorbitant prices, neighborhoods pay guards to protect communal wells, and violence erupts over access. The privatization and commodification of basic needs that



Butler imagined are evident today, as private water companies profit while rural communities, particularly in the Central Valley, experience dry taps and rely on bottled water for survival, as stated by the Public Policy Institute of California.

Butler's warning in "Parable of the Sower" is not simply about environmental disaster but also a critique of political collapse. In her future, the United States is no longer a functioning state but is a fractured landscape where leadership is either ineffectual or aggressively self-interested. In this context, recent political actions, particularly the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement under President Donald Trump, resonates with Butler's world and accelerates our trajectory toward it.

In 2017, the Trump administration announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, a global accord under the United Nations designed

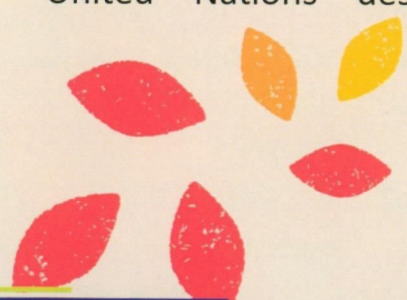
to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to below 2°C. The U.S. officially exited the agreement in November 2020, only to rejoin months later under President Joe Biden. In a controversial move, Trump again advocated for withdrawal upon returning to office in 2025, effectively signaling to the world that climate cooperation is subject to political whims. Butler's fictional president, Christopher Donner, is charismatic and popular but ultimately unfit to lead during a time of profound crisis, mirroring real-world leaders who downplay the urgency of climate action for political gain.

In both cases, leadership fails to address the roots of societal instability, favoring short-term popularity over long-term sustainability. This erosion of political responsibility, especially in the face of accumulating environmental threats, is central to Butler's vision of systemic collapse. The repeated withdrawal from the Paris Agreement reflects not just policy volatility but also a broader abdication

of moral responsibility. Climate change, as Butler argues, is not an issue that can afford political competitiveness. Each retreat from international cooperation undercuts global climate mitigation efforts and leaves our earth even more exposed to worsening climate conditions.

Octavia Butler's "Parable of the Sower" does not just mirror our current climate crisis; it warns us of what lies ahead if we remain passive. The parallels between her dystopian vision and our present reality are not coincidental; they are evidence of our collective failure to heed the signs of environmental and political decay. From destructive wildfire seasons to worsening droughts and the commodification of water, our society is inching toward Butler's envisioned future.

Yet, the novel also speaks to the power of adaptation, resilience and potential for transformation. We must recognize that climate change is not a distant threat. It is here,



it is personal, and it is political. We must hold our leaders accountable for climate inaction, demand long-term policies rooted in environmental justice, invest in sustainable infrastructure, support community-led climate initiatives, and amplify the voices of frontline communities — especially those who have been historically marginalized.

Reflecting on Butler's words, "There is no end to what a living world will demand of you," we are reminded that survival in a changing world is not passive. It is constant, evolving and often uncomfortable. Our world demands our awareness, our compassion, our innovation, and, importantly, our action. Our world challenges us to rise beyond the limitations of individualism and to take responsibility for the collective future. Butler's protagonist Lauren Olamina teaches us that survival is not about waiting for someone else to save us; it's about building something new from the ashes.

The time for complacency is over. We must educate, organize and push

for climate policies that prioritize equity and sustainability. The future is not yet written, and while we may be living in Butler's world, we also carry the power to rewrite its ending.

REVIVE.
RESIST.
REPEAT.



RESISTING MISINFORMATION: THE POWER OF TRANSPARENCY IN FOOD LABELS



Shiv Goel

He/Him

Sophomore | Health
Management | Biology

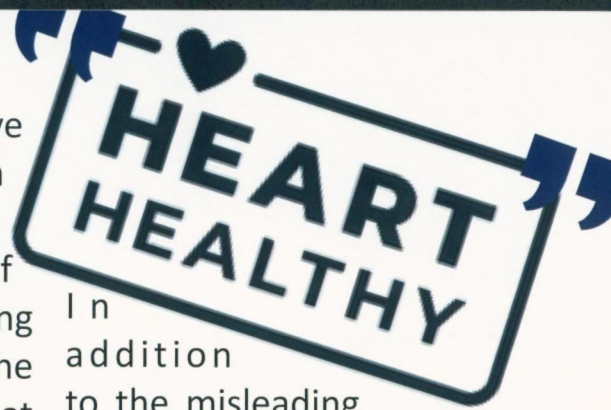
After a 36-hour on-call shift, an exhausted cardiac surgery resident strolls through the aisles of a grocery store and grabs a dozen frozen microwaveable dinners. She loves to cook but doesn't have the time because she has to be back at the hospital in eight hours for her next shift. Despite her chronic lethargy, the frozen meals are an easy option to keep her full. At least they are "all natural." Next to her in the check-out line is an elderly man with a jug of canola oil. His wife wants to make puris at home, a cultural Indian dish. Although they are typically fried in ghee, he decides to go with vegetable oil, as it is cheaper, and the bottle

is labeled "heart healthy." He thought this would be best for him; his primary care doctor told him he is at a genetically high risk for heart disease. Both the resident and elderly man believe they are making sound choices for their health, yet deceptive labels and systemic barriers leave them trapped in misinformation and convenience. This cycle is affecting the health of millions of Americans who are unfairly misled by inadequate food regulations, marketing and a system that prioritizes profit over public well-being.

The organizations that are responsible for food regulation in the U.S. are the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture. Taking a look at their regulation (or lack thereof) reveals how easy

it is for approved food labels to be misleading to consumers. Terms such as "natural" are loosely defined. For example, meat or milk may be labeled 100% natural if it is minimally processed and contains no artificial ingredients, such as added color. However, this says nothing about what happened to the animal before the milk was collected or slaughtered for meat. Many cows are fed antibiotics, which are obviously not natural. According to Our World In Data, a nonprofit health organization, in the 2010s, about 70% of the world's antibiotic supply was used for farm animals. A report from the National Institutes of Health states that antibiotics in farm animals can lead to





Kraft released "Olive Oil Mayo," which states it is "made with a blend of

oils" in the fine print. Looking at the ingredient list on the nutrition label reveals that while the second ingredient is olive oil, the third and fourth ingredients are canola oil and soybean oil. These are highly chemically processed and inflammatory, leading to a range of health complications such as heart disease, metabolic dysfunction, oxidative stress, and obesity. It is grossly unfair that consumers have to read the nutrition label to find out their perceived healthy mayonnaise is contaminated with very unhealthy ingredients. For those who are unaware of how to read an ingredients list or simply do not have the time to go through it for everything they are buying, they are being misled.

resistant strains of bacteria

in host

animals as well as humans who eat their products. Even the FDA admits, "from a food science perspective, it is difficult to define a food product that is 'natural' ... [The] FDA has not developed a definition for use of the term natural or its derivatives." It would make sense that a food product labeled "natural" is minimally processed from its sourcing to composition. These labels can mislead consumers.

Companies have created new labels as marketing tactics to entice consumers who are aware of the dangers of harmful additives and ingredients commonly used in foods and condiments. One example is mayonnaise.

In addition to the misleading labels regarding food purity and sourcing, macro and micro nutrient labels may be inaccurate. FDA regulations allow a 20% margin of error on nutrition fact labels. A 2014 study published in the journal Obesity determined the caloric content in a sample of the most commonly consumed energy-dense snack foods in the United States, such as Doritos and Chips Ahoy, is between 4%-8% higher than stated on the nutrition label. While this aligns with FDA regulations, it is concerning that companies are under-representing the amount of calories in



their foods. The average American burns 2,000-2,500 calories per day. If someone aims to consume this range, they could actually be 80-200 calories over their goal. Considering one pound of body fat equals 3,500 calories, over the course of a year, this is equivalent to 8-21 pounds of excess fat. It is alarming that the FDA allows even more inaccuracy.

The U.S. Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee reported limited evidence linking ultra-processed foods to an increased risk of obesity in adults. Although consumption of processed foods with the same macronutrient composition as non-processed foods does not lead to weight gain, they are engineered to be

hyperpalatable and have significantly lower micronutrient levels.

According to a 2016 study from Hyper Articles en Ligne Open Science comparing the satiety (fullness from eating a certain weight of food) of 98 processed versus unprocessed foods, the more food is processed, the lower its satiety potential. Therefore, they are much more likely to be overeaten, leading to unhealthy and unintentional weight gain. Also, a conflict of interest appears to be at play. An investigation into the committee's ties to the food and pharmaceutical industries revealed that 19 out of 20 members have financial connections to processed food companies. These financial ties can sway decision-making, prioritizing industry interests over scientific integrity and public health. This lack of credibility raises the question of whether objective

science and human physiology truly align with these claims.

The impact of misleading food labels is even more pertinent in food deserts with limited access to single-ingredient fresh foods. Low-income areas tend to have more convenience stores selling processed foods and fewer supermarkets with diverse fresh produce options. As a result, residents often rely on packaged and processed foods. This lack of access to accurate information, combined with limited healthier alternatives, can compound poor dietary choices and contribute to long-term health disparities, especially in communities already burdened by chronic conditions like obesity and heart disease. According to an article from *Lipids in Health*

**NATURAL
INGREDIENTS**

Total Fat 0.5g*

1%

Saturated Fat 0g

0%

0%

and Disease, consuming high levels of processed oils is linked to inflammation, insulin resistance, obesity, diabetes, and metabolic dysfunction. Consumption of these oils elevates levels of oxidized low-density lipoprotein. In its unoxidized form, it plays an important role in healthy functioning by building cell membranes and cell signaling. However, when it is oxidized, these molecules deposit in the small cavities in the arterial lining, leading to increased calcification and blood flow blockages, the precursors to heart attacks and stroke. Companies must address misleading food labeling and improve access to healthy foods. A start would be limiting costs and the number of ingredients in foods for the working and underserved communities.

This is crucial to reduce

the prevalence of disease.

Companies must also focus their efforts on food labeling transparency, ensuring that all consumers, particularly those in vulnerable communities, can make informed decisions about their health.

Standardized, understandable labels that describe ingredient origins, processing methods and straightforward nutritional content will promote healthier communities, reducing future healthcare expenditures and burdens. Additionally, it is crucial to advocate for policies that hold food companies accountable for misleading marketing, while also supporting efforts to educate and empower individuals to understand these labels.

Food transparency is a right, not a privilege. As a society we must foster a collective responsibility to promote equitable

access to clean and nutritious foods. Although the responsibility is on companies to change their unethical practices, we can also do our best to address these issues when they show up on the shelves of our local grocery stores. Education on how to read food labels and more regulations on the accuracy of companies' claims will make a difference. For example, being conscientious about the number of the ingredients in the foods I buy and their sourcing makes me feel better about what I am consuming to look and feel my best. This will enable everyone to make well-informed choices and ultimately build a more just and healthier future for us all.



WHITE MEAT AND Wildflowers



MARISA BUGARIN

SHE/HER

SENIOR | NEUROSCIENCE | PSYCHOLOGY

I recall memories of getting burgers at Grand Dining Hall as a freshman. Oh, and the SLU lips all over campus that are planted every spring? To die for! Steak, burgers and ground beef – all are staples of the mainstream American diet. Tulips brighten up our campus and are enjoyed worldwide.

But, do you ever wonder what the repercussions

are of consuming these delicious red meat options on our campus or in local restaurants? Do you ever wonder how the Missouri ecosystem reacts to foreign flowers like those beautiful tulips and hydrangeas?

You may also be thinking — what's the big deal?

Both are privileges and pleasures that SLU offers when there are much more sustainable options. Though there are some options SLU can't change, it's good to stay educated about the

sustainable and environmentally encouraging practices that are on SLU campus. Moreover, it's important to understand the overall environmental costs of the beef industry and prioritizing foreign flowers over wild ones. Finally, I'd like to share why there should be more white meat and wildflowers on campus and in our great St. Louis community.





JUICY DETAILS: THE TRUTH ABOUT RED MEAT

The production of red meat products contributes more to climate change compared to white meat. According to an article published in Food Research International, a food science journal, the beef industry has a higher carbon footprint due to its methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas. The extensive land use for the cattle industry also causes a higher water footprint, pollution and scarcity.

White meat, such as chicken and turkey, produce a lower carbon footprint. According to the Soil Association, a charity working to combat unsustainable food practices, these products excrete less methane gas. Moreover, the lower use of land and water resources make these meats a more sustainable option.

Production of red meat isn't the only way that greenhouse gases are released. Once meat spoils or is deemed inedible, it becomes waste. According to Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, improper disposal of red meat, more than chicken waste, can create dead zones in coastal areas, which tend to smother coral reefs!



What SLU is Doing...

Campus Kitchen: This student-led organization is known for addressing food justice in the local St. Louis community. They repurpose donated and leftover food by using it in new recipes and distributing plates to families. Through this effort, they reduce overall food waste from both SLU and local stores, such as Trader Joe's — including red meat waste!

Meatless Mondays: SLU started an initiative to give vegetarian and vegan students more options by having Meatless Monday. This initiative recognizes the diversity in diet we have on campus and reduces meat consumption and waste. Though it's only one day, there's the possibility for expansion. SLU could switch over to more white meat options overall. To increase accommodations for vegetarian or vegan students, they could have more days with reduced or no red meat to further decrease the amount of red meat waste.



NOT ALL GREEN IS GOOD: THE TRUTH BEHIND SLULIPS

Wildflowers make ecosystems healthier because they promote pollinators such as bees and butterflies. As described by the Missouri Department of Conservation, a common native flower that supports many of our local pollinators would be the milkweed!

There are about 22 species in Missouri alone!

The Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis preaches the importance of native flowers. Though they showcase many non-native plants around their property, they give higher priority to native plants for attracting bees! Coneflowers and Asters support the local bee and butterfly population while plants like the Devil's walking-stick provide berries to migrating songbirds.

Though non-native plants may not always be considered invasive, they can still be harmful to the overall native ecosystem! An article for the Yale School of the Environment describes how replacing native plants with non-native ones is a key contributor to the collapse of insect populations. This also leads to a decrease in birds, meaning that changing an ecosystem at its root (literally) can contribute to the collapse of natural food chains.



Concern and Hopes for SLU and their Flowers: You've seen the ground services staff uproot and stockpile tons of dead hydrangea bushes and tulip bulbs on West Pine. There isn't any written statement or evidence, but this is another concern for the use of seasonal non-native plants. Once they wilt or are unpleasant to look at, SLU will start to clear them out. The hope is that they are able to compost the plant waste and use it for the campus's benefit instead of letting the plant waste go straight to the trash.

Flowerbeds at Monsanto and Shannon Halls: The St. Louis Butterfly Project, Milkweeds for Monarchs, has partnered with SLU's Ground Services to plant flower beds with native plants. These include coneflowers, goldenrods, bee balm aster and milkweeds — all plants that attract pollinators. According to SLU News, SLU has stuck to their initiative of keeping at least 50% of plants on campus native for the past decade! This is awesome — but why not make it more than half!

WHO HOLDS POWER BEHIND THIN CIVILIAN FACADES?



Muhammad Hamza Saleem

He/Him

Ist Year M.Sc Electrical and
Computer Engineering

The Illusion of Democratic Control

In the modern era, when democracy, transparency and civic accountability are celebrated as fundamental principles, a deeper reality often goes unnoticed: the most significant power shaping policy and public life frequently operates beyond the reach of elected officials. Civilian structures composed of politicians, public servants and government agencies present a visible layer of governance. Yet, behind this veneer, global decision-making is often steered by powerful networks including corporations, financial institutions, private philanthropists, and media conglomerates. These forces, though unelected and largely unaccountable to the public, profoundly influence the policies and perceptions that govern our societies.

Beyond the Ballot Box: How Policy is Shaped Before Elections

While voters participate in elections with the belief that their choices shape the future, policymaking is often swayed by external influences long before ballots are cast. Campaign finances, lobbying and private donations shape not only who can run for office, but also what they stand for. For example, major corporate donors in industries like fossil fuels and pharmaceuticals have been shown to shape environmental and healthcare legislation by supporting candidates aligned with their interests. The Koch brothers, through extensive donations to political organizations and think tanks, have played a significant role in advocating

for deregulation and tax reforms in line with their economic views.

Media and Tech: The Architects of Public Narrative

Such influence extends into the realm of media and public discourse. Wealthy elites, by investing in media outlets or digital platforms, gain the ability to shape narratives and control the spread of information. Media mogul Rupert Murdoch, for instance, has exerted considerable influence on political conversations in the U.S., U.K. and Australia through outlets like Fox News and the Times. On digital platforms,

similar power plays out. Investigations have revealed that TikTok, for example, has instructed moderators to suppress content on politically sensitive topics related to certain national interests. Likewise, Meta (formerly Facebook), has faced criticism for algorithms that deprioritized political content by default, potentially narrowing the scope of political engagement among its users.

The Military-Intelligence Nexus and Entrenched Influence

The idea of the “deep state,” a controversial and often misused term, reflects the perception that there exist entrenched bureaucracies, military-industrial interests and intelligence networks that exert power independently of elected officials. The military-industrial complex, a term famously coined by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, captures this dynamic. It refers

to the close relationship between the government, military and defense contractors, which can influence foreign policy and national security decisions.

It is important to acknowledge that the term “deep state” has sometimes been co-opted to support conspiracy theories or harmful rhetoric. This includes prejudiced narratives targeting various communities that have antisemitic, Islamophobic or other bigoted motivations. Responsible discussion of power structures must avoid reinforcing such harmful stereotypes that can affect all communities.

Instead, it is more accurate and responsible to speak of “interlocking institutions” that include lobbying firms, major defense contractors, global consultancies, and centralized banking systems, which influence governance in both visible and hidden ways. Companies involved

in defense manufacturing often maintain close ties with policymakers, and their contracts can shape foreign policy decisions. In many countries, defense policy has been influenced by the lobbying power of firms supplying arms and surveillance technologies. While these ties are not inherently nefarious, the lack of transparency and oversight raises important ethical questions.

Global Financial Institutions and the Politics of Aid

Similarly, international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank have played central roles in shaping fiscal policy across the Global South. While offering financial assistance, these institutions often require structural reforms such as austerity measures or market liberalization that critics argue



disproportionately affect low-income populations. A notable example was Greece during the 2010 debt crisis, where IMF-driven austerity policies led to deep cuts in public services.

In Pakistan, similar austerity measures were imposed in the past as a condition for receiving IMF loans. These policies have often included reducing government spending on social welfare programs, raising taxes and cutting subsidies, which have had negative effects on the country's poorest populations. The repeated cycles of IMF-backed structural reforms in Pakistan have raised concerns about the long-term impacts on public services, poverty levels and inequality.

Globally, trade agreements and corporate lobbying have also played a central role in shaping labor laws, environmental policy and industrial regulation. Negotiations that take place between governments and multinational corporations often lack

transparency and public participation. In the case of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, critics raised concerns that labor and environmental protections were being weakened in favor of corporate interests.

The Billionaire Class and the Digital Public Square

The intersection of media control and financial power is perhaps most visible in the rise of billionaire tech leaders. Elon Musk, for instance, now owns a key communication platform (formerly Twitter), providing him with a unique level of influence over public discourse. His platform was a central hub for political debate during the 2024 U.S.

election, illustrating how ownership of digital infrastructure can shape political conversations in real time. However, Musk is not the only example of a tech mogul with such power. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, exerts significant influence over public discourse through his ownership of the Washington Post, a major player in political coverage. Additionally, Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Meta, has faced both praise and criticism for how his platform influences public opinion and political outcomes through its algorithms and content moderation policies.

On the other side of the spectrum, billionaire philanthropists like George Soros have used their wealth to support various causes and organizations focused on social justice, civil rights and democracy reforms. His philanthropic foundations have funded initiatives to advance policies on issues such as immigration, criminal justice and public health.

While this influence is not inherently partisan

or malicious, it underscores the powerful asymmetry between individual voters and ultra-wealthy actors who have vast platforms and financial resources. Whether supporting more conservative or progressive causes, these billionaires have the ability to shape political conversations, media narratives and even electoral outcomes, raising significant questions about the balance of power in modern democracies.

Toward Transparency, Oversight and Real Democracy

The presence of these interlocking powers doesn't mean democracy is an illusion, but it highlights the need for continuous vigilance, reform and civic engagement. Greater vigilance means improving transparency in lobbying, corporate donations and political advertising. It also requires strengthening whistleblower protections,

funding independent journalism, and promoting digital literacy to help citizens detect media bias and manipulation. Most importantly, it involves holding power accountable, whether in parliament or a boardroom.

The media, as the "fourth estate," shapes public perception and political outcomes. When media ownership is concentrated in a few hands, it can distort information to serve specific interests, suppressing diverse viewpoints and manipulating public discourse. This makes it crucial for citizens to remain critical of the information they consume.

Citizens can demand greater oversight by supporting campaign finance reform, engaging in local and national elections, and participating in civic organizations that track corporate and governmental accountability. Movements like

OpenSecrets.org,

ProPublica and Reporters Without Borders empower the public to understand where power lies and how it's used. Through increased transparency and independent oversight, democracy can be more effectively safeguarded.

Restoring Power to the People

Ultimately, the goal is not to vilify wealth or influence, but rather to ensure that systems exist to prevent power from becoming unaccountable. A functioning democracy depends not only on elections, but also on sustained public participation and institutional checks. If power is to truly reside with the people, then citizens must have access to truthful information, fair representation and mechanisms to challenge concentrated influence whether political, corporate, or otherwise.

PROGRESS

& THE PURSUIT OF TOMORROW:

GENTRIFICATION AND GENERATIVE A.I.



Isaac Hauffe

He/Him

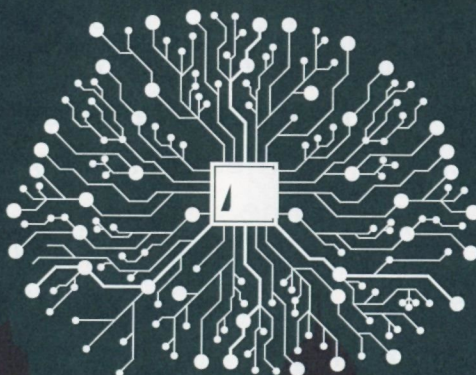
Freshman | Neuroscience |
Philosophy

The concept of progress is frequently coupled with positive sentiment. And there is good reason to make that semantic union. Working towards a conclusion is innately cathartic; we are trained from a young age to value it so.

However, we must remember that progress is a neutral term: denotatively, all it requires is movement and destination. Progress can be applied towards the completion of a grand orchestral arrangement or the construction of a peace deal. Likewise, “progress” could be the encroachment on Indigenous lands by colonizers or the conversion of a national park into an oil field. This makes progress a dangerous word. Wielded by a self-interested voice, it blinds us to fallacious

— or even plainly false — arguments. Words are a primary medium by which we define reality; it would be foolish to neglect the potency of their misuse.

As such, we’ll be taking a look at two examples of “progress,” the gentrification of cities and generative



artificial intelligence. In doing so, we can best inform ourselves on the powerful manipulations and unfettered consequences of its misuse.

(Re)Building and (Re) Populating

As population centers of human societies, cities provide innumerable opportunities for residents.

Yet, for many, the city is the epitome of criminality, of filth, of immorality — connotations that emerged from the long-standing mistreatment of the racially diverse populations found within cities, a topic we’ll explore further later.

It is fair, then, to wonder how we can work past this association, how we can progress to a point where these beacons are viewed with unfiltered adoration, not thinly veiled disgust. Forging a path that increases mainstream desirability of cities can be an immensely profitable venture — not only in the metaphorical sense, but also when dealing with genuine money as well. And, well, if that path ends up bulldozing a few families’ livelihoods, surely that’s a small price to pay. After all, we’re improving the city, progressing towards a brighter future, no?

It is here that we

encounter the facade of gentrification. To help explain, let's take a look at a local example: the City Foundry. In the initiation of gentrification, an entity, in our case the Lawrence Group, purchases relatively cheap land in a region with lower property values. Hoping to increase neighborhood desirability the company constructs or converts property, perhaps converting it into a commerce center or a food hall. If successful, profit is procured, and the region sees a sizable increase in market value alongside significant external, affluent, interest. With the influx of high-class clientele, new stores jump into action, ready to cater to their tastes. Those stores typically replace long-lived independent businesses. Expensive organic grocers move in, perhaps a Fresh Thyme Market, and relatively affordable international markets move out.

Marketing their actions as "redevelopment," "renaissance" and "revival," developers attempt to dismiss prejudice surrounding a region,

painting over the past. They frame this process as a completely natural effort to better our society. The original residents, not prepared to manage this rapid increase in costs, are then trapped in a veritable prison of economic expansion. As developers chase profits, they simultaneously chase out the people who made these regions desirable in the first place. Even further, and not at all coincidentally, gentrification is frequently enacted upon neighborhoods containing predominantly Black and Latino residents, continuing the long legacy of systematic segregation in our cities. This isn't some invisible issue: from 2010 to 2022, the share of the St. Louis' population who identify as Black has dropped 5.7 percentage points, and the share who identify as white has increased by 3.5 percentage points. Gentrifiers, hoping to make money on this injustice, are incentivised to engage in destruction and reduction. And we, hearing the glory of the "new," of a promised future, are all too willing to pounce on this tomorrow

— a tomorrow that's been engineered to come.

(Dis)Possessing and (Dis)Connecting

With generative AI's rapid amplification in ability, so, too, has come an extensive annihilation of intellectual attributions. Though marketed as the democratization of media creation and the inevitable upgrade to the internet's myriad capabilities, it is difficult to sympathize with a positive perspective towards A.I. in the face of such glowing ethical concerns.

A notable intersection between A.I. and unethical activity is seen in image generation. Image generation is made possible via the consumption of vast datasets of media. The machines spot patterns and similarities between disparate depictions of similar subjects, using these same patterns to extrapolate and create new images from the ashes of the art. These vast quantities of images, of course, require

a source; all too often it is posted content on the internet.

Despite unsettled debates regarding copyright infringement during A.I. training, this content is still scraped by models without artists' permission or compensation. Generation is contingent on a very obvious theft of intellectual property.

OpenAI claims their newest model "advances the boundaries" of what A.I. can achieve. Google positions Gemini as "push[ing] the frontiers." We are overwhelmingly led to believe that generative A.I. epitomizes the progress we hold so dear. If we look a bit closer, however, we can see a very specific rhetorical choice in these words: expansion, power, control — the language of colonization.

By invoking the rhetoric of colonization, these companies adopt the long-held belief that, in the face of progress, it's acceptable to allow others to suffer. In much the same way that nations and companies stole the lands and livelihoods of Indigenous peoples, so, too, do these technology conglomerates steal the

artistry of the internet. If we consider art the "land" of the internet and acknowledge its creation as the livelihood of many, this analogy certainly comes to life.

It is not only land, literal or metaphorical, that is taken: customs are another victim of A.I. As an example: it is common for many groups in Indigenous Australia to restrict depictions of recently deceased Aboriginal individuals. Despite this, A.I. models have assimilated, and then reproduced, images of these dead Aboriginal people. The blatant disregard of widespread cultural protocol further highlights the theft of not only pictures, but also of culture itself.

When A.I. is presented as a "new frontier," a pang of excitement may be inevitable. Yet generative A.I. is undeniably developed with profit in mind. The rhetoric of progress is, again, used to convince us to support these services; to disregard consequences, no matter the collateral; to blindly follow the grandiloquence.

We must remember that the language of

colonization goes both ways. By using this rhetoric, developers position themselves alongside the proctors of uncountable horrors. Perhaps such vile condemnation is hyperbole; even so, keeping this metaphor in mind can better inform us in our decision to use, or to abstain from, these products.

(In)Justice Informed

Both of these examples, gentrification and generative A.I., present change as inherently positive. Both attempt to veil the identities of who benefits and who suffers. Both use the notion of progress as a puppet, wielding it with artifice to satisfy our desires. Yet these examples are not alone. Consider the claims made by those who benefit from the gig economy or ultra-processed health food; of corporate greenwashing or of social media algorithms. All are purported as unequivocal positive progress.

In light of what we have learned, it must be made clear that this is not a diatribe against progress as a concept or some grand summoning to conservatism.

It is a critique of progress' manipulation.

Looking at image generation, we see that artists are the base upon which A.I. stands. In gentrification, the same goes for the original residents. In both cases, the encroachment of capital relies on a strong base of individuality. We are the base upon which these injustices rely, a status that gives us a distinct power.

When discussing gentrification, I highlighted the role large companies play in regional redevelopment. But this is not the whole truth: many independent individuals partake in these processes as well. House flipping has become wildly popular, and, in the traditional sense, is performed by individuals. This goes to show that we, even as unorganized individuals,

do have power. Likewise, in image generation, though it is difficult to completely protect one's content from being consumed, one can still make the very simple choice to forgo generative A.I. These false notions of progress are not inevitable. Believing in inevitability falters resistance and fortifies the beneficiaries. We can choose to contribute to the displacement these processes bring, or we can abstain from — and even sabotage — the proceedings.

We must hold our leaders accountable for the decisions they make that benefit this skewed perception of progress. You could contact your lawmakers demanding that gentrification no longer be treated as a unilateral success. You could refrain from using generative A.I. unless technology companies institute ethical policies. It may be unrealistic to avoid grocery shopping at a place like Fresh Thyme in the Foundry, but you could certainly think twice before patronizing Puttshack. These actions seem small, like tossing a pebble into a pond. Yet they are only small in isolation: when attempted

in number, a real impact can be made.

And most importantly: we must question the narrative of progress wherever it arises. Be it in text or speech, advertisement or legislation, there is a reason why progress is wielded in excess. Words are power, and progress is power. Always consider for whom the supposed progress benefits, and for whom the progress undermines. The appeal of progress — and the efficacy of the promise that lies therein — is oftentimes relative, nuanced and must be thoroughly understood. Remain cautious, critical and cognizant of the messaging of others and work towards progress: not as something that benefits oneself, not as something that benefits one's group, but as a synchronised step forward, a step for the betterment of us all.

TONGUES OF THE EARTH



Alexandra Ogarrio Santiago

She/Her

Senior | Anthropology | Environmental Science

"Does language facilitate your voice — or does it silence it?"

Language is one of the most powerful tools we possess. It shapes how we perceive the world, transmit knowledge and affirm our identities. For Indigenous communities, language is not just communication — it is ceremony, memory, land, and history. Yet, language can also be turned against its speakers. History tells us that language has been used not only to uplift but also to dominate; not only to connect but also to sever. It has

served as a site of resistance — and a mechanism of control.

This article argues that linguistic imperialism — the imposition of dominant languages and suppression of Indigenous ones through colonial policies, boarding schools and missionary education — not only

silences Indigenous voices, but also intersects with cultural struggles. For many Indigenous communities, defending their languages is part of a broader battle to protect their lands, cultures and future.

Language Loss and Linguistic Imperialism

Linguistic imperialism refers to the dominance of one language over others, often through institutional power



and colonial expansion. As scholar Robert Phillipson defines it, it's "the transfer of a dominant language to other people...the dominance is asserted and maintained by structural and cultural inequalities between languages." In colonial context, language became a weapon — one that served to displace, replace and erase.

Historical Context of Linguistic Suppression

Boarding Schools and Forced Assimilation

In the United States, the Native American boarding school system is one of the clearest examples of linguistic imperialism in practice. Children were forcibly taken from their homes, stripped of their names, punished for speaking their native languages, and immersed in English-only environments. These schools were rooted in the philosophy of cultural genocide, exemplified by the motto: "Kill the Indian, save the man."

Language suppression was central to this system — it was not incidental.

When children were forbidden from speaking their ancestral tongues, it severed intergenerational bonds and silenced centuries of oral history and wisdom. The result was more than language loss; it was the deliberate dismantling of identity.

Canada's residential school system, described by its Truth and Reconciliation Commission as "cultural genocide," mirrored this approach. Generations of Indigenous children were robbed of their languages, which directly contributed to trauma, shame and disconnection that linger to this day.

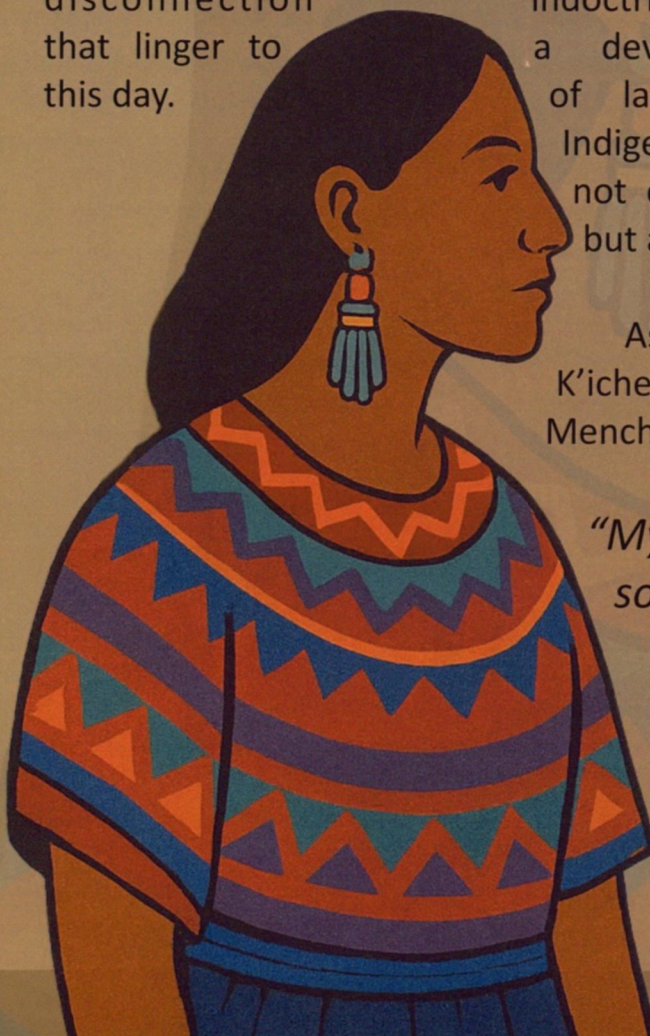
Missionary Education and Religious Indoctrination

Less frequently discussed, but no less damaging, is the role of missionary education in linguistic suppression. In Latin America, particularly in Guatemala, missionary schools imposed Spanish through Christian teachings, framing Indigenous languages as sinful, inferior or useless.

Children were often taught that salvation was only possible through the language of the colonizer. Over time, this religious indoctrination created a devastating hierarchy of language, in which Indigenous tongues were not only impractical — but also shameful.

As Nobel laureate and K'iche' activist Rigoberta Menchú once said:

"My language is the soul of my culture, and if it dies, so too does my people's way of seeing the world."



Contemporary Manifestations of Linguistic Imperialism

Though explicit assimilation programs have diminished, the consequences endure. In Guatemala today, Maya children face a daily linguistic dilemma: speak Spanish to access education and employment, or speak K'iche' (among other Mayan languages) and maintain their cultural roots. The unspoken pressure to abandon their native tongue reinforces colonial hierarchies and stifles cultural pride.

This tension leads us to the vital question: *Does language facilitate your voice, or does it silence it?*

When dominant languages not are linked to success and just respect, Indigenous voices are often muted — unless they conform to systems that *were never built for them*.

Gatekeeping and the Ownership of Language

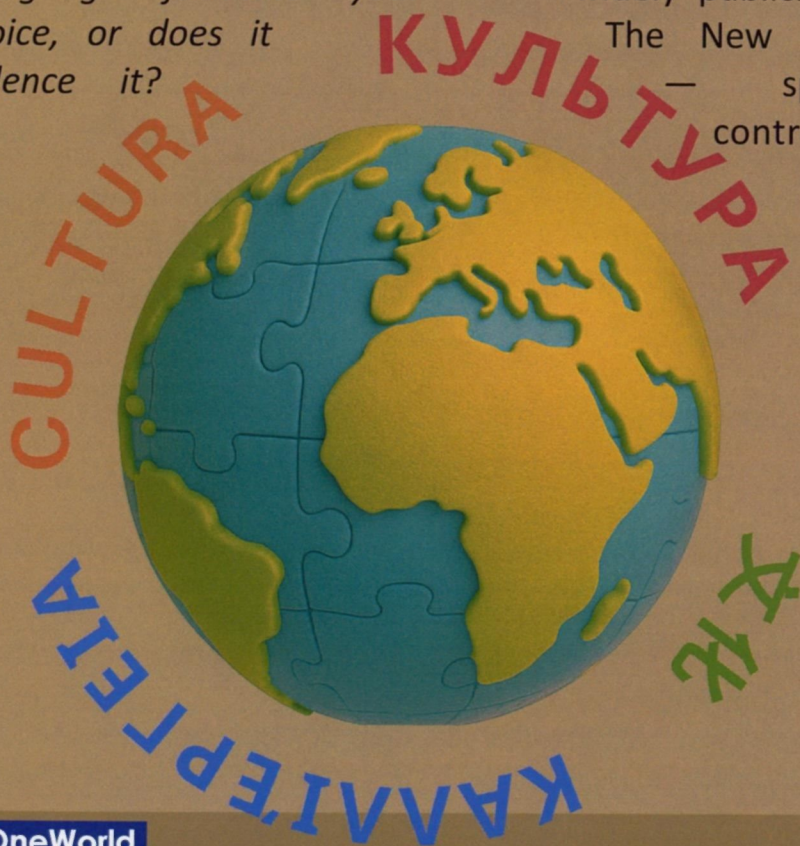
Another form of linguistic imperialism appears in academia. Historically, anthropology and linguistics have extracted Indigenous knowledge without community consent. A recent example is the case of Daniel Everett, a self-taught linguist who studied the Pirahã language of the Amazon. His work — widely publicized in *The New Yorker* — sparked controversy

because of his claims about the language's unique structure, but also because it reignited concerns about outsiders documenting, publishing and profiting from Indigenous languages without proper community collaboration or consent.

This raises ethical concerns about linguistic gatekeeping — when scholars claim authority over Indigenous languages while Indigenous speakers are excluded from decision-making or recognition. True decolonization requires a shift: Indigenous communities must be the architects of their own linguistic futures.

As Māori scholar Linda Tuhiwai Smith writes in “Decolonizing Methodologies,”

“The word ‘research’ is probably one of the dirtiest words in the Indigenous world’s vocabulary.”



It is not knowledge itself that is dangerous, but the theft of it.

Technology and Institutional Efforts in Language Preservation

State-Sponsored Programs

Programs like the Japanese government's Japan Exchange and Teaching Program reveal the double-edged nature of institutional language efforts. While the JET program promotes cross-cultural language exchange, it also regulates and prioritizes dominant narratives — reminding us that even well-intended programs can reinforce linguistic hierarchies. Who decides which languages are worth preserving? And under what terms?

Grassroots and Technological Initiatives

In contrast, Indigenous-led initiatives are reclaiming language through innovation. Organizations like The Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math Connection, led by Indigenous youth, use

robotics and technology to revitalize endangered languages through immersive learning experiences. Bilingual sports leagues, digital archives and apps created by Native developers are reshaping language learning into culturally-rooted, empowering experiences.

Here, technology becomes a tool of sovereignty — not surveillance.

Language and Environmental Activism: The Interconnected Fight

For many Indigenous peoples, land and language are woven together. The erosion of one often signals the erosion of the other. When pipelines like Line 3 threaten sacred waters, they also threaten the language embedded in those waters — the stories, songs and ceremonies that can only be spoken in place.

Water protectors and land defenders are not only environmental activists; they are cultural guardians. Their resistance is multilingual and multigenerational.

As Winona LaDuke of the Anishinaabe Nation has said:

"We are not protestors. We are protectors."

Language as Resistance, Language as Life

The legacy of linguistic imperialism is one of silence. But Indigenous communities across the world are speaking back — reviving their languages, reimagining their futures and refusing to be erased.

The suppression of language parallels environmental degradation: Both are rooted in colonial systems that seek to dominate. But just as the Earth can heal, so, too, can culture. Reclaiming language is not nostalgia — it's survival.

So once again we ask:

Does language facilitate your voice — or does it silence it?

The answer depends on who holds the power to speak, and who we choose to listen to. *The time to listen to all voices is now.*

LOUDER THAN LYRICS:



The Importance of ASL Inclusion in Music



Mounika Katta

She/Her

Freshman | Biology

Imagine the buzz of a new album release. People blasting the latest single in their cars. Fans pre-ordering tickets and packing into stadiums to watch their favorite artists. Lyrics, clips and new TikTok dance routines flooding social media.

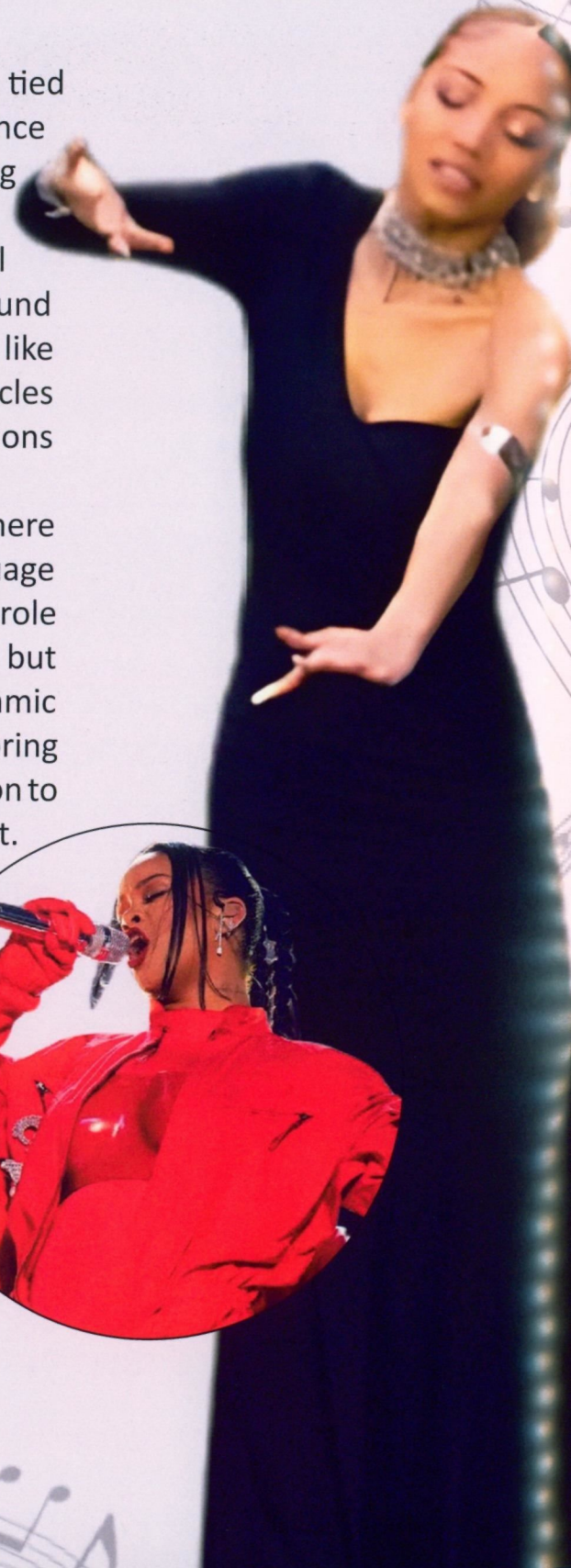
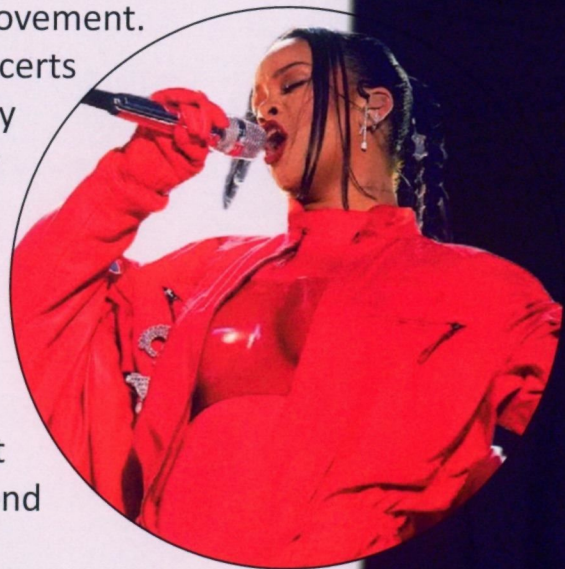
Now, imagine standing with everyone at the edge of this cultural awakening, and not being able to hear the buzz or feel the frenzy and excitement. This is the reality for many Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals who are often excluded from one of the most vibrant, communal forms of media: live music.

Although music is initially

perceived as being tied to sound, its experience extends beyond hearing alone. Concerts, often considered universal celebrations of sound and emotion, can feel like inaccessible spectacles when no accommodations are made.

That's where American Sign Language interpreters play an vital role – not just as translators, but also as separate, dynamic performers that bring rhythm, tone and emotion to life through movement.

ASL in concerts is not simply a courtesy to the Deaf community; rather, it is and should be, a celebration of inclusive art that echoes far beyond the stage.



The Advanced Role of ASL Interpreters in Concerts

ASL interpretation in music is an art form in itself. Unlike straightforward translation, signing at concerts requires interpreters to capture, in real time, the essence of songs – conveying metaphors, slang and rapid-fire lyrics. For every verse, they need to mirror the cadence, convey the mood and amplify the emotion. A skilled ASL interpreter doesn't just sign words; they express the strength of a rapper's flow, the growl of a rock singer, the vulnerability of a ballad, and the liveliness of a pop artist. ASL

is a skill that demands strong cultural understanding, musical intuition and theatrical flair.

Interpreters must adapt on the fly, keeping pace with complicated lyrics, rapid rhymes and varying musical cues.

For example, looking at Kendrick Lamar's 2025 Super Bowl halftime show, interpreter Matt Maxey didn't just sign Lamar's lyrics. Instead, he mirrored his intensity, his political messaging and even his iconic cadence. Similarly, at Rihanna's 2023 Super Bowl performance, Justina Miles became a viral sensation by embodying Rihanna's confidence, swagger and stage presence through dynamic signing. These interpreters don't just stand passively at the side of the stage; they perform, matching the artist's energy and ensuring Deaf audiences experience the music in its full emotional depth.

The Impact of ASL Interpretation on Audiences

The presence of ASL interpreters does more than provide accessibility – it fosters inclusion and



broadens
cultural
appreciation. Many
hearing concertgoers,
initially unfamiliar with ASL,
find themselves captivated
by interpreters' quick and
expressive movements.
The viral reactions to Miles
and Maxey prove that ASL
interpretation
isn't just

functional; it's artistic. The
interpretations at the Super
Bowls and others not only
thrilled Deaf audiences, but
also educated millions of
people around the world
about Deaf culture, especially
ASL and silent forms of
expression. Further, these
viral moments illustrate
how ASL can transform
concerts into multisensory
spectacles: ones
that center joy,
community and
artistry for
people of all

backgrounds.

For the
Deaf community,
interpreters mean more
than just access – they
mean belonging.

“When I see an
interpreter at a concert,
it's not just about
understanding the lyrics
– it's about feeling the
music the same way hearing
people do,” says Marlee
Matlin, Oscar-winning Deaf
actress and activist. “The
rhythm, the emotion,
the energy – ASL brings
it to life.”

A Deaf SLU
student shared,

“Watching the
Super Bowl and seeing the
interpreters or knowing
I can buy tickets to a
concert because
the singer has hired
interpreters is such a
good feeling. I don't
get to have those kinds
of experiences often,
so it's nice when a
singer puts in that
thought. I hope it
becomes more
common.”



The Future of ASL in Concerts and Major Events

The growing visibility of ASL interpreters at major events signals progress, but there's still a lot of work to do. Firstly, interpreters should be recognized as performers in their own right, with special and individual consideration given to their placement, lighting and even integration into stage choreography. Some artists have incorporated ASL into their visuals, projecting interpreters on screens alongside lyrics – a practice that should become standard.

Additionally, as demand grows, so does the need for accountability. Not all

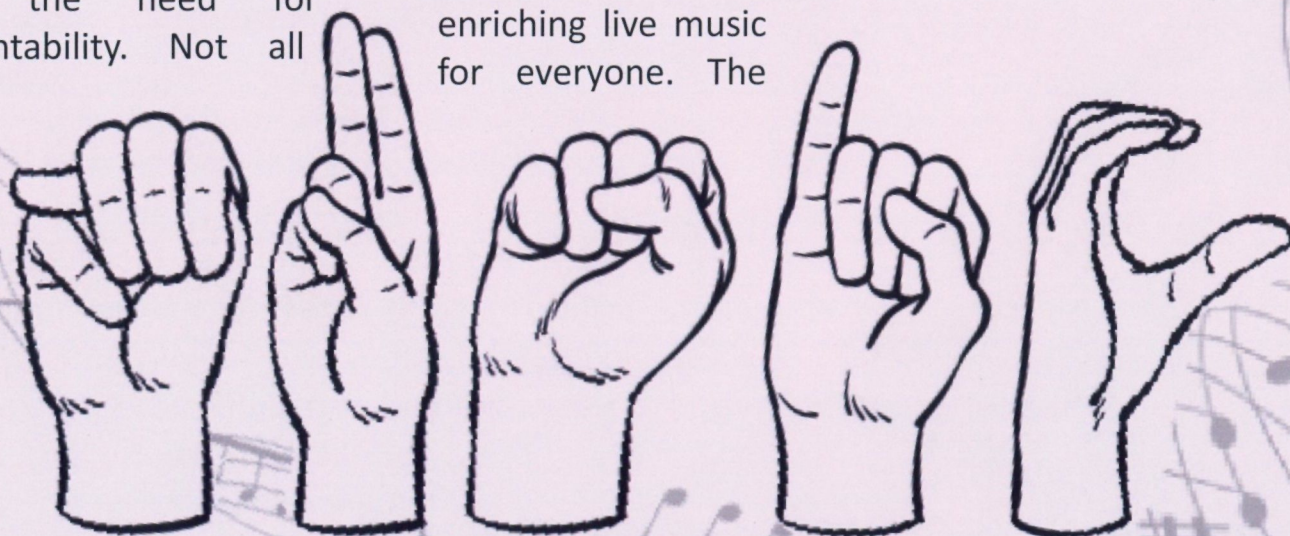
interpreters are qualified. There have been multiple reported incidents of unqualified individuals being hired as interpreters and fake signing at important events, including political conferences, musical concerts and major competitions. For example, the infamous 2013 Mandela Memorial incident involved a man gesturing nonsense on stage. This event, and others like it, undermine the trust and dignity of the Deaf community. As more venues embrace ASL, there must be standardized accessibility policies and rigorous screening processes to maintain quality and authenticity.

Conclusion

ASL interpretation in concerts isn't just about accessibility; it's about enriching live music for everyone. The

recent viral success of interpreters proves that the public embraces and celebrates inclusive performances. As we move forward, the music industry must recognize that true music and artistry isn't just heard. Instead, it is seen, felt and shared.

Music is about making sure that everyone, regardless of hearing ability, can scream (or sign) the lyrics alongside thousands of others.



NUMBERS DON'T BLEED



Alexander Korfiatis

He/Him

Senior | Medical Sciences

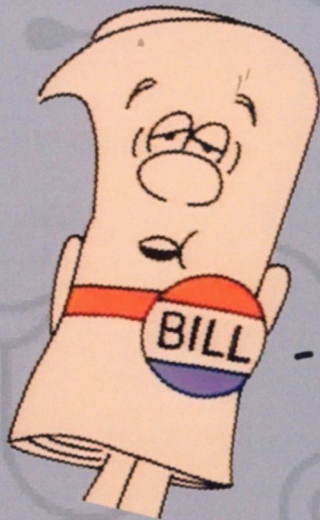
Medicaid was supposed to be a footnote. When it was passed from the Social Security Amendments of 1965, the New York Times barely featured it, instead focusing on Medicare. Just to clarify the difference, Medicare is a federal-only program that services mainly the elderly and those with certain disabilities. It functions like a national insurance program that helps pay for medical costs. Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that serves mainly children, pregnant women and those with disabilities. It provides

assistance, and since it is based on state care, it depends on the politics of the state. Despite its humble beginnings, it was meant to work for former President Johnson's "Great Society," where there was greater care for the poorest citizens. There was a massive increase in funding for federal social programs under the program. The elderly were included in it because they rely on Social Security to pay their bills. However, if they have a medical problem, they then would be unable to pay for the medical costs, which are exorbitant.

Since its passing, 72 million Americans rely on Medicaid coverage, and it takes up a sizable portion of the federal budget. The Kaiser Family Foundation states that it takes up 8% of all spending. Medicaid itself has broad bipartisan support. KFF

polling found that 77% of Americans have a favorable view of the service, with 66% of Republicans in support. There are currently discussions in Congress of whether Medicaid should be cut. If it is cut in any way, millions of people could lose their coverage, and hospitals could lose much of their funding. If Medicaid were to be cut, and all states drop Medicaid expansion, the Urban Institute estimates that the number of uninsured people would rise by 37.9%. This is a massive increase.

Medicaid has both bipartisan support and bipartisan usage. Medicaid usage in the republican congressional district with the most enrollees is 495,000, while in the democratic district, the most enrollees is 510,000. In my home state of



Indiana, 21% of residents are on Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. CHIP insures children whose families cannot afford insurance. Since children tend to have developing immune systems and need vaccinations, that is incredibly important for their health. Additionally, 20.3% of the residents in the state of Missouri rely on Medicaid or CHIP. Heavily democratic states, such as California and New York, have approximately 30% of their residents on Medicaid or CHIP.

Medicaid does not pay directly to states; instead, states pay their citizens, and the federal government repays those states. States are guaranteed matching dollars without a cap to eligible enrollees. In

Medicaid funding without the Affordable Care Act expansion, that is done by a complex formula. The federal government raises that to 90% in the ACA expansion. The 2021 American Rescue Plan Act also has financial incentives for states to begin

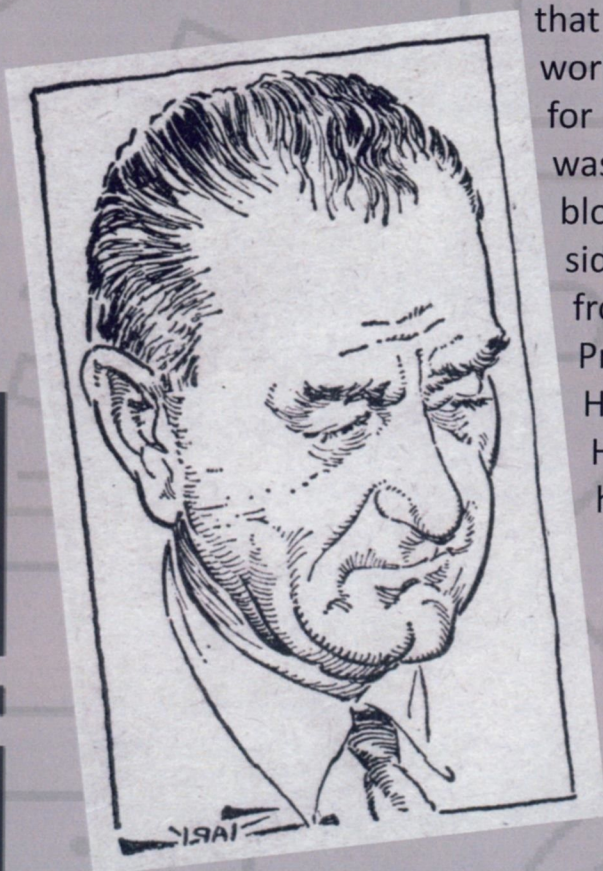
Medicaid expansion, which some have. Due to these matching funds, Medicaid functions as many states' largest sources of federal funding, and in the fiscal year 2022, it accounted for 29% of total state expenditures. Finally, Medicaid has the most people dependent on it in comparison to Medicare and Social Security. Medicaid also has the smallest budget compared to them. Since Medicaid is an entitlement, anyone who is eligible can enroll into the program. The rest is paid by the states.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the usage rates of Medicaid. At the start of the pandemic, a bipartisan vote pushed forward the Families First Coronavirus Response

Act, and President Trump supported the bill. There would be a massive influx of people who were needing medical care for COVID treatment. Those same people possibly could not pay for it because of all the layoffs and subsequent loss of insurance. In response, Congress passed the FFCRA to require states to keep people continuously enrolled in the Medicaid program for as long as the public health emergency was declared. In 2023, in a bipartisan vote, this requirement was removed, which has decreased the number of people on Medicaid. This increased the uninsured rate. Both Democrats and Republicans voted for this bill because while it is beneficial for uninsured people, it is incredibly expensive to maintain and only was meant for emergency situations. The KFF estimated that between 8 million to 24 million people have lost their coverage under Medicaid. People are still struggling to care for their families who experienced COVID-19 and Long COVID. Without

Medicaid, it will be harder.

The people dependent on Medicaid tend to be poorer. In 2022, KFF reports that Medicaid covered 80% of children in poverty, and 60% of nonelderly adults in poverty. It also covered 44% of adults with disabilities and nearly half of all children with special needs. It covers 62.5% of nursing home residents. Many of these people could stand to lose their benefits if proposed spending cuts are put into law. Many of these people, especially the elderly, are primarily Republican voters.



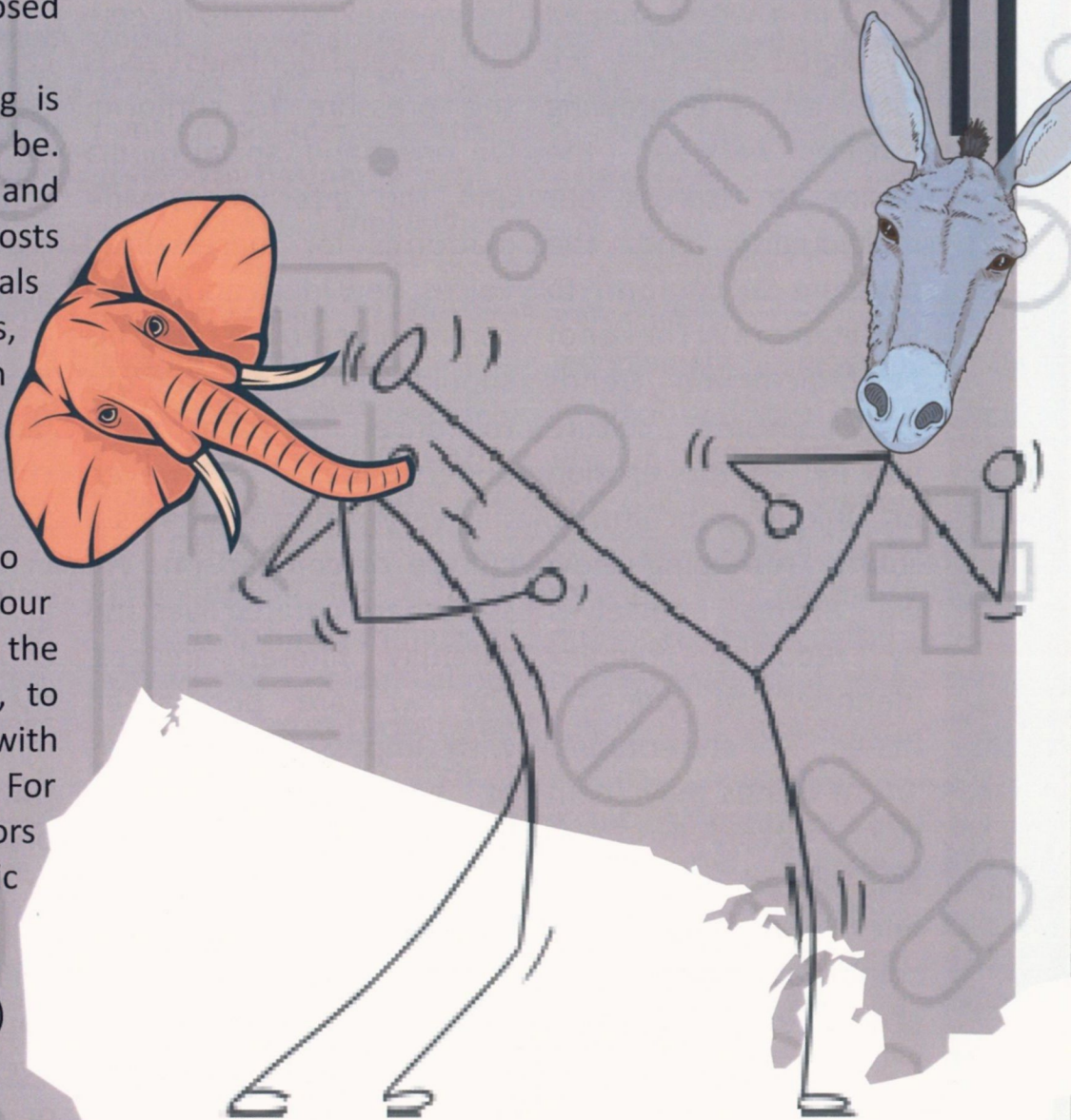
President Donald Trump throughout his campaign trail has vacillated on spending cuts to the program. An average of 77% of voters in rural counties support President Trump. Rural voters' hospitals rely on Medicaid to function, since there is not enough tax revenue or low population to pay for healthcare services. President Trump might have lost support among his electorate by cutting the funding. Therefore, at different moments on the trail, he said that he would only look for fraud or said that there might be work requirements for the program. This was to prevent any blowback and to sidestep any attacks from former Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign. Harris portrayed him as trying to cut significant portions of Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare to gain support among rural voters and those in cities.

Now that he has been elected, however, Republicans want to cut spending to pay for President Trump's proposed tax cuts. In Republicans' proposed budget, the New York Times reports that they want to cut \$880 billion in funding. Republicans directed the House Energy and Commerce Committee to cut the deficit under its purview, without cutting Medicare. Cutting Medicare could imperil them with elderly voters. Without cutting Medicare, 93% of the rest of the funding is related to Medicaid. This ensures that some cuts to Medicaid will happen. Millions of people will lose their healthcare if these funding cuts occur.

As stated above, this would impact Trump's own supporters. The Hill reports only 35% of Trump supporters polled would support Medicaid spending cuts. 77% of rural voters want to increase Medicaid spending or keep it the same, with 66% of Republican rural voters echoing the same

sentiment. These voters would be hit the hardest by any substantial cuts to Medicaid, but Republicans continue to push these cuts as a way to pay for President Donald Trump's proposed tax cuts.

Medicaid spending is massive, and it should be. This spending saves lives and decreases healthcare costs for uninsured individuals and children. Republicans, going against their own voting base, are pushing these cuts as a way to fund tax cuts for corporations. A way to help is through calling your representatives, both on the federal and state level, to voice your discontent with these spending cuts. For Missouri, those Senators are Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt, whose office phone numbers are (314) 354-7060 and (314) 230-7263, respectively.





Grace Walter

She/Her

Freshman | Biostatistics | Mathematics



In Search of Ourselves

In a world shaped by digital exposure, we face an ever-growing tension between the desire to express our individuality and the pressure to conform to societal norms. The rise of aesthetic-driven trends and consumer culture has led to the erosion of unique subcultures, subtly reshaping how we express ourselves by reducing complex identities to one-size-fits-all stereotypes. These trends may seem like a victory for unity and shared experience, but the hyper-conformity creates serious implications for freedom of expression and personal autonomy.

One of the greatest contradictions of the digital age is the tension

between exposure to diverse cultures and identities versus the pressure to conform. On one hand, social media and the internet provide platforms for marginalized voices, new ideas and global communities to interact. This should, in theory, promote tolerance, empathy and understanding. However, this very platform creates a culture of comparison. We see others' curated lives and carefully filtered images, and we are bombarded with impossible standards of beauty, success and happiness. The pressure to fit in with what is popular or "trending" often trumps the value of personal uniqueness. This exposure creates a system where individuality is increasingly defined by what we buy, consume and emulate, rather than by what we truly value or who we are.

One clear example can be seen in how children are increasingly purchasing anti-aging products or using makeup to enhance their appearance. This trend is fueled by a societal fixation on youth and beauty, where even children are encouraged to look more "perfect" in order to fit into an aesthetic ideal. Instead of learning to embrace their natural selves, many young people are turning to products that promise to reverse aging or mask flaws, reflecting the deeper cultural shift where external appearance is prioritized over self-acceptance or understanding one's true identity.

Historically, subcultures were vital

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spaces for individuals to express their unique identities outside of the mainstream. Communities such as punk and alt embraced rebellion against dominant cultural norms and allowed people to explore their identity through art, fashion, music, and behavior, creating a sense of belonging. However, subcultures have recently been overtaken by the rise of aesthetics, which has become the dominant mode of self-expression. Oxford Languages defines aesthetics as the “philosophical study of beauty and taste.” Today, however, the word “aesthetics” more often refers to visual style or “vibes” that define a particular identity. The subcultures that were once an organic form of individuality have become a curated experience, where

personal identity is reduced to a series of images and catchphrases that fit within a particular aesthetic.

For example, the gothic subculture first arose as part of the post-punk music scene, partially defined by its unique fashion and darker, melancholic themes. It was a space for individuals to explore feelings of alienation, introspection and rebellion against mainstream norms. However, in the digital age, the goth “aesthetic” has been distilled into a trend that can be easily mimicked. Instead of being about personal expression and embracing nonconformity, it has become more about the look, without necessarily engaging in the deeper, more complex themes that originally defined the subculture. The pressure to conform to popular trends, be it in fashion, slang or behavior, has replaced the rich diversity once celebrated within subcultures, leading to a situation where identity

is increasingly shaped by external, homogenized standards. Although following aesthetics or trends offers a sense of belonging and relatability, it encourages a loss of individual expression.

Women, in particular, are increasingly pressured to fit into these trends or risk being left out. The rise of “girl dinner” or “girl math,” for example, may appear as quirky, relatable cultural touchstones, but they subtly collectivize women’s experiences, reducing complex and multifaceted identities into simple, marketable categories. These trends make women feel as though their worth lies in participating in these viral moments, even if the representation is shallow and limiting. Trends like these are not just a joke; they erase

continue >

individual experiences rather than celebrating the rich diversity that exists among us.

As subcultures become “mainstream” and aesthetics become commodified, their original meaning and values are diluted. This shift reflects a broader trend where, in the context of modern capitalism, identity is becoming increasingly tied to what you buy. For instance, the popularity of eco-friendly or “sustainable” brands has led many to associate their environmental consciousness with the products they purchase, using these items as a way to signal their identity as socially responsible, even if their overall lifestyle does not align with those values. The lines between who we are and the products we consume are blurred daily. Instead

of celebrating individuality through self-expression, we are told that we can buy the identity we desire.

An example of this is found in how fast fashion brands market their products. Often collaborating with influencers, they create curated “looks” that promise effortless style and popularity, making it seem as though purchasing the latest item is the key to fitting in. By showcasing how easily the influencers can achieve the perfect, on-trend appearance through shopping, these brands suggest that our self-worth and social identity are directly tied to what we wear, rather than our individual qualities or values. They promote the idea that self-worth is attainable through a curated shopping list.

Consider the rise of “buying your style,” a trend where instead of creating your look through DIY-ing or personal expression, the

focus is on purchasing specific items to fit into a defined aesthetic. In the past, DIY culture served as a form of resistance against mainstream consumer culture; today, this DIY ethos is being replaced by the purchasing of a pre-assembled identity. With the expansion of "buying your style," power shifts away from personal creativity and autonomy, replaced with consumer-driven identity construction. For example, DIY has always been important in the punk subculture, from customized jackets to hand-distressed jeans. However, stores now promote these looks through pre-made items and advertise them as "trendy," leading to a gradual rejection of the DIY culture that was once a space for artistic self-expression and rebellion. This rejection only further fuels a

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system where our worth is defined by the brands we wear and the products we use.

Amid all these trends, it is vital to remember that life is not just what you see online. What others present as popular on social media is far from an accurate representation of reality. To resist the pressure to conform to the latest trends and aesthetic pressures, it is essential to think critically about the media you consume. Question every trend you find yourself following and ask yourself whether they align with your true self or are simply a response to external pressure. The next time you find yourself about to purchase something just to fit in, consider whether it reflects your authentic identity. Is it

just part of a consumerist cycle designed to sell you an idea of who you should be? Or is it a genuine reflection of who you are?

At its core, individuality is a form of resistance. The act of being your genuine self, despite the pressure to conform, is one of the most powerful ways to reclaim autonomy in a world that often benefits from our collective unity. Rejecting the pressure to constantly keep up with trends is a vital action toward fighting the loss of individuality. The constant flood of images, ads and influencers telling us what to buy and who to be on social media cannot define us. Being mindful of how these influences affect our sense of self can preserve your individuality rather than allowing it to be boxed into a category. It is essential to be yourself and combat the culture of constant comparison. In a world where social media, influencers and

consumerism constantly push us toward sameness, embracing individuality is not just an act of personal freedom; it is an act of true resistance.

Post Now



BREAKING THROUGH MONOPOLY POWER



Masis Bagautdinov

He/Him

Sophomore | Accounting | Finance & Business Technology Management

It often feels like corporate giants control our world. They dominate entire industries with aggressive pricing, exclusive deals and buyouts that make it incredibly tough for smaller businesses to gain traction. But history tells a different story: Innovation, smart strategies and even courtroom battles have allowed small challengers to disrupt these monopolies. So, what does it take for the little guys to win? A possible power move to initiate a drastic change within the market? Or, a subtle build up that allows a strong development from the smaller company to break free from the chain? Let's dive into the battle between small businesses and corporate giants.

How Big Corporations Maintain Monopoly Power

Market Control and Limiting Competition

Big corporations use their vast resources — like data, money, infrastructure and influence — to maintain control. For instance, Google and Apple dominate the tech world by tightly controlling platforms. They've made ambitious promises about renewable energy, but critics suggest these claims might be more about image than genuine sustainability. Retail giants like Amazon and Walmart set pricing standards, while pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer strategically tweak patents to delay cheaper generics, keeping prices high and competition low.

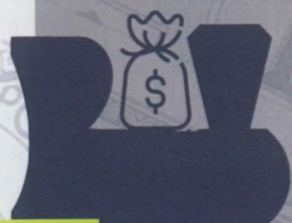
Pricing Tactics and Predatory Behavior

Monopolies often push smaller competitors out by selling

products below cost, a tactic known as predatory pricing. Amazon famously did this with book sales — offering best-sellers at prices small bookstores simply couldn't match. In 2020, Amazon sold Stephenie Meyer's "Midnight Sun" for just \$9.89, far below the retail price of \$27.99. Independent bookstores and chains like Barnes & Noble couldn't sustainably match these discounts. Once competition fades, prices rise again, benefiting the giant at consumers' and competitors' expense.

Acquisitions and Idea Replication

Another common tactic is buying out competitors or copying their best ideas. Facebook's acquisition of Instagram and WhatsApp, for example, allowed the company to take control over social media and messaging platforms, reducing



user alternatives and increasing market influence. Similarly, Apple's release of its journaling app in 2023 — which closely resembled the independent app Day One — shows how tech giants can replicate successful features and offer them for free within their native ecosystems. These integrated products are hard for smaller companies to compete with. In doing so, large corporations not only restrict consumer choice but also discourage innovation by making the landscape less hospitable for independent developers.

How Small Businesses Push Back

Innovation as a Game-Changer

Innovation remains the strongest tool small businesses have against giants. Tesla transformed the car industry with electric vehicles, forcing traditional car companies to change. Netflix reshaped home entertainment, leading to the fall of giants like Blockbuster. Innovation is powerful because it disrupts the norm and creates new consumer expectations.



Taking Legal Action

Sometimes, the battle moves to court. Epic Games challenged Apple and Google in 2020 after both removed Fortnite from their app stores due to payment disputes. Epic argued that their dominance over app distribution was anti-competitive. Although the courts mostly sided with Apple, they did agree Apple had to let developers suggest alternative payment methods — a significant victory for smaller developers.

Finding a Niche & Gaining Consumer Support

Many small businesses thrive by serving niche markets overlooked by giants. Pip Decks, a U.K. company founded by Charles Burdett, offers a product called Storyteller

Tactics — a card deck helping professionals craft compelling stories and presentations. Despite competition from large consulting firms, the product found success by connecting deeply with creatives, educators and entrepreneurs. Personally, I've found Storyteller Tactics invaluable for structuring ideas and presentations. Likewise, local organic farms succeed by targeting consumers who value freshness, sustainability and ethical sourcing — qualities industrial agriculture struggles to replicate. Personally, I support farmers markets because the produce is trustworthy, sustainable and transparently sourced. These small businesses win by offering authenticity and building trust, something large corporations rarely achieve.

Case Studies: Small Companies Challenging Monopolies

DeepSeek vs. NVIDIA: A Chinese startup, DeepSeek, has emerged as a formidable rival to NVIDIA in the A.I. industry. NVIDIA, a U.S.-



based technology giant renowned for its graphics processing units, or GPUs, commands approximately 90% of the discrete GPU market, solidifying its dominance in sectors like gaming, data centers and A.I. development. In mid-February 2025, DeepSeek launched its R1 model — a first-generation reasoning model trained through large-scale reinforcement learning to tackle complex tasks across math, code and language domains. Boasting higher efficiency and lower operational costs, the R1 model disrupted the market, leading to financial impacts for NVIDIA as investors speculated about a potential shift in market power. As reported by Business Insider, DeepSeek's rise underscores how innovation and cost-effective solutions can challenge even the most established industry leaders

Shopify vs. Amazon:

Shopify, a Canadian e-commerce company founded in 2006, provides software that enables individuals and businesses to create and manage their own online stores. Unlike Amazon's

centralized marketplace, Shopify empowers merchants to maintain full control over their branding and customer relationships. As of early 2025, Shopify powers approximately 30% of U.S. e-commerce websites and supports over 4.9 million stores globally. In 2023, merchants on the platform processed \$235.9 billion in sales. Barron's reported that Shopify's stock was recently upgraded with a price target of \$125, reflecting investor confidence driven by a nearly 30% year-over-year revenue increase in Q3 2024. (Note: This price target was set prior to the 2024 U.S. elections.) Shopify's growth underscores how platforms prioritizing merchant autonomy can effectively challenge established giants like Amazon.

The Role of Government and Public Influence

Antitrust Laws and Regulations

Antitrust laws play a critical role in ensuring fair

competition by preventing monopolies and protecting consumers. For example, the European Union fined Google billions for favoring its services in search results, hurting smaller competitors. Such regulations help level the playing field, enabling smaller businesses to compete more fairly.

Consumer Awareness & Market Changes

Consumers wield considerable influence by choosing businesses aligned with their values. King Arthur Baking Company exemplifies this, being employee-owned and a Certified B Corporation committed to sustainable sourcing. Initiatives like their "Baking a Stand" program demonstrate genuine ethical practices. Furthermore, consumer protection laws such as the U.S. Federal Trade Commission Act reinforces transparency and accountability, empowering consumers to shape fairer markets through informed choices.





The Future: How Small Businesses Can Continue to Succeed



While monopolies may appear invincible, history repeatedly demonstrates they can be disrupted. Emerging technologies, such as Blockchain — which decentralize control, enhance data privacy and facilitate transparent transactions — offer pathways to success. However, attentiveness is essential, as even these technologies risk being taken control of or exploited by large corporations seeking greater power rather than genuine decentralization. Small businesses must also stay adaptive. By prioritizing authentic ethical branding and genuinely sustainable practices, they can differentiate themselves from large corporations that often engage in superficial “greenwashing” and “going green” campaigns purely for profit and unethical marketing. True ethical branding involves transparent actions, clear communication and

consistent alignment with consumers’ values, which large corporations frequently fail to authentically deliver.

Moreover, increased government observation through stronger antitrust laws and regulations can create a fairer market environment by restricting monopolistic behaviors, thus providing new pathways for small businesses to be prepared to anticipate and respond swiftly to market shifts. But success is also dependent on consumer awareness and advocacy. As consumers, each of us holds significant power in influencing market dynamics. Supporting businesses that embody transparency, environmental responsibility and genuine innovation — such as Certified B Corporations like King Arthur Baking Company — drives meaningful change, shaping markets toward fairness and accountability. The fight against monopolies is ongoing, complex and multifaceted. Yet, through informed consumer choices, technological innovation, strategic adaptability and

active engagement with regulatory changes, small businesses and consumers alike

can reshape industries for a more equitable, sustainable future.

Ultimately, reshaping our economy relies on informed consumer choices, innovative technologies, strategic adaptability, and active regulatory engagement. Each individual plays a role. In St. Louis, supporting local businesses through initiatives like Love Local STL (thestl.com/lovelocalstl) offers practical ways to take action, choosing locally owned alternatives over corporate giants. By consciously choosing where we shop and what products we support, we foster fair competition and strengthen our communities. The question is: What role will you choose to play?



[REDACTED]



MARISA BUGARIN

SHE/HER

SENIOR | NEUROSCIENCE | PSYCHOLOGY

I WANT TO SPEAK OUT,
WE WANT TO SPEAK OUT,

FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T,
FOR THOSE WHO AREN'T ABLE TO,

I WANT TO SPEAK OUT;
BUT I AM

SCARED.

I AM JUST A KID,
WHAT COULD I EVEN

DO?

SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE,
I KNOW THINGS NEED TO

CHANGE.

SO I WANT TO SPEAK OUT,
BUT WHAT IF I GET

[REDACTED]

AND WHAT IF MY SCHOOL

[REDACTED]

BECAUSE IF I SPEAK OUT,
MY FUTURE EMPLOYERS MAY

[REDACTED]

BECAUSE MY PARENTS ARE NOT FROM HERE,
BECAUSE I AM NOT [REDACTED]

I'M AFRAID TO SPEAK OUT.

[REDACTED] IS FREE SPEECH,
[REDACTED] IS MY RIGHT,
[REDACTED] IS FOR THE PEOPLE,

I GO TO [REDACTED] UNIVERSITY,
I WORKED AT [REDACTED] FOR YEARS,

[REDACTED] HAS SILENCED US.
[REDACTED] STEALS PEOPLE OFF THE

STREETS.

I BELIEVE IN [REDACTED]
I STAND FOR [REDACTED]
I FIGHT FOR [REDACTED]

I AM SCARED FOR MY [REDACTED]
THE FEAR OF [REDACTED] IS REAL,
[REDACTED] STUDENTS QUIVER,

FREE [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] LIVES [REDACTED]
STOP [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I AM MARISA BUGARIN. I AM GRADUATING
FROM SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY. I WILL
NOT ASSOCIATE OR ACCEPT ANY
ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION THAT
SILENCES THE PEOPLE THEY ARE
OBLIGATED TO PROTECT.

“ICE” Cold:

How New Immigration Policies Will ‘Freeze’ Undocumented Immigrants



Mounika Katta

She/Her
Freshman | Biology

Jocelynn Rojo Carranza. An 11-year-old child who took her own life after her sixth grade class continuously teased her, threatening to call immigration services and have her deported.

Abergo García. A 29-year-old legal U.S. citizen born in El Salvador, mistakenly deported and sent to a maximum security prison, Terrorism Confinement Center in El Salvador, because of an “administrative error.”

Rumeysa Ozturk. A 30-year-old Tufts University doctoral student who was essentially abducted and kidnapped off a suburban street by masked ICE immigration officers after leaving her home on a Tuesday night.

Recently, under the new presidential administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement has grossly expanded its reach. These expansions are not subtle: they send a clear message to undocumented communities that nowhere is safe. Formerly, ICE adhered to a “sensitive locations” policy, which discouraged enforcement in critical spaces, but recent policies have stripped away these protections in spaces once considered safe: hospitals, churches and schools. This means that decisions that were once thought safe to make by undocumented immigrants, such as sending their children to school or taking their kids to the emergency room, are now considered extreme risks. While political debates rage about border security and national policy, the real cost is measured in the

daily lives of people. This article explores how these policies don’t just enforce immigration law – they paralyze entire communities in fear.

Fear and Restricted Access to Essential Services

For undocumented immigrants, hospitals, schools and places of worship were once sanctuaries. However, now, these safe havens are potential sites of detention and deportation.

- Hospitals: Hospitals, and E.R.s especially, were long considered safe



places for undocumented immigrants, but, under new policies, they are no longer deemed safe, a decision that will have resounding negative effects on the community. Pregnant patients may avoid prenatal care, worried parents may hold off on necessary doctor visits for their sick children, elderly patients may quietly suffer in their homes, and patients diagnosed with mental health disorders may try to wean themselves off of medications. When healthcare becomes a gamble, untreated conditions turn into life-or-death crises.

- Schools: Parents now weigh education against the terror of family separation. Attendance drops as rumors of ICE raids spread, and children lose not just

learning opportunities but also the stability and socialization schools provide. Supporters of these evolving ICE policies argue that immigrants have an ethical responsibility to secure the necessary funds for the citizenship process and proceed through it legally. However, when safe havens and places of comfort or learning are stripped away and children are denied access to a proper education, breaking the cycle becomes nearly impossible.

- Places of Worship: Churches, mosques and temples have long offered spiritual solace, especially to those who struggle to find peace – such as undocumented immigrants – in their physical, surrounding community. However, now, every visit and prayer is shadowed by anxiety and fear.

When entire communities of refuge are no longer deemed safe, where can immigrants turn for hope?

Allowing ICE agents to enter previously-deemed safe places does not target the issue. Instead, it merely radiates fear into undocumented immigrants and even legal citizens. By avoiding these spaces, undocumented immigrants are forced into isolation and cut off from medical care, education and community support, which just further hurts the community.

Economic Hardships and Workplace Exploitation

Undocumented immigrants have long filled essential but underpaid roles: harvesting crops, building homes and domestic work. But now, workplace ICE raids have turned jobs into traps. Employers, emboldened by the increasingly weakened oversight, can more easily underpay, overwork and threaten workers with deportation if they speak out. Because of the increasingly limited choices for legal action/justice, many



of these workers will suffer in silence. The threat doesn't just end at job loss; job insecurity ultimately leads to financial distress, housing insecurity, food scarcity and familial pressure.

And what's the result?

Once again, these families, which are already struggling and facing immense struggles to survive, are pushed deeper into poverty, making it even more difficult for their children to break the cycle.

Family Separations and Social Isolation

Along with the physical and financial burdens that come with these deportations, there are immense emotional fallouts. Deportations can tear families apart. Since 2017, over 5,500 children have been separated from their parents. The process and placements of these children is typically decided on a case-by-case basis: some children are placed in foster care, some are placed under the care of relatives, some are forcibly deported, and

some decide to willingly leave the U.S. to reunite with their parents. Regardless, the effect of this placement decision almost always results in a large emotional burden on the child.

Deportations affect more than just the families of undocumented immigrants. Similar to the case of Abergo García, documented immigrants also face threats and risks. Racial profiling, bias and a recent notable increase in mass deportations means that similar "administrative errors" seem likely to continue to occur. The process of proving your legal citizenship once deported becomes increasingly difficult, especially with limited communication to family members within the United States, which many deportees face.

As these actions continue, so does overall community withdrawal. Families avoid parks, grocery stores and public transit. Neighborhoods grow quieter as people retreat into hiding, and the sense of community and togetherness slowly becomes demolished.

From racist rhetoric in headlines to viral TikToks with subtle discrimination to videos of immigration raids celebrated for the officers' aggression – these media portrayals reinforce harmful narratives. This dehumanizing rhetoric surrounding immigration appears to be growing in popularity, and it has long-lasting negative impacts. It doesn't just shape policy: it fuels discrimination, turning everyday life into a minefield for immigrants.



The background of the page is a collage of images. At the top, there's a photo of a person in a blue shirt with 'POLICE ICE' on the back. Below that, on the left, is a photo of a man in a car. In the center, there's a photo of a person in a blue shirt with 'POLICE ICE' on the back. On the right, there's a photo of a person holding a sign that says 'SCHOOL VS ICE'.

The Future: More Raids, Fewer Rights

Looking ahead, it's hard to envision a positive change in the current direction of harsh immigration policies. Sanctuary cities, places that traditionally held strong jurisdictions that limited local law enforcement's involvement with federal immigration enforcement, are now under threat. Increased public support in placing national bans on sanctuary cities hold further deep-rooted consequences.

Additionally, stricter policies surrounding individuals seeking asylum in the U.S. and immigration offices rescinding protections for Dreamers and Temporary Protected Status holders seem to be some of the next steps. Once again, these actions hurt hundreds of thousands of Americans, and have unforeseen direct

and indirect effects on the surrounding communities.

Resistance and Solidarity

These policies don't just target undocumented immigrants.

They harm families, schools, workplaces, and entire communities, and, perhaps most importantly, they make it incredibly difficult for families to navigate the legal citizenship process and break the cycle.

Despite these policies and the growing feeling of shared hopelessness, there are some beacons of hope. Many universities and colleges across the U.S. have released individual statements, sharing their support and protection for their students and claiming they will not assist any ICE immigration officer.

Saint Louis University has shared similar sentiments, with faculty and professors sharing that they are committed to protecting students regardless of citizenship status. Additionally, there are many ways to help on an individual level. People

can support local immigrant rights' organizations through donations and volunteering, they can reach out to lawmakers to oppose ICE overreach, and they can stand in solidarity with vulnerable neighbors.

Millions of Americans currently face immense risks to their safety, dignity and a future, and the cold grip of these policies won't thaw without collective action.



Lives at Stake: The Politics of Public Health



SAMPRITI PADMANABAN

SHE/HER

FRESHMAN | PUBLIC HEALTH |
HEALTH MANAGEMENT

The United States is in the midst of its worst measles outbreak in over 30 years. Roughly 600 cases to date, largely accounted for by unvaccinated children. In the middle of it all, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. cut over \$2 billion from childhood vaccination programs.

Political decisions have the potential to significantly impact

healthcare accessibility, research funding and global health initiatives. Public health has historically been prone to change during administration shifts, influencing both domestic policy and the U.S.'s global role. However, these developments have not only raised concerns about the well-being of Americans but have also placed the country's international health leadership at risk.

Withdrawal From the WHO

In January 2025, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14155, withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization. For those unfamiliar, the World Health Organization is a specialized agency within the United Nations responsible for coordinating international public health efforts, setting health



standards, and providing guidance on health policy/ research worldwide. The U.S. has been a member since its inception in 1948... That is, until now. The administration cited alleged political bias and dissatisfaction with the WHO's pandemic response. Specifically, they claimed the WHO had been too lenient with its approach towards China and had prioritized global cooperation over individual countries' health interests (in this case, the United States). Note: A key tenet of the WHO's mission clearly outlines a commitment to "keep the world safe;" there is no mention of allegiance to any specific country or its individual interests. This marks Trump's second attempt to exit the WHO, following a similar move in 2020 that was later reversed

by the Biden administration.

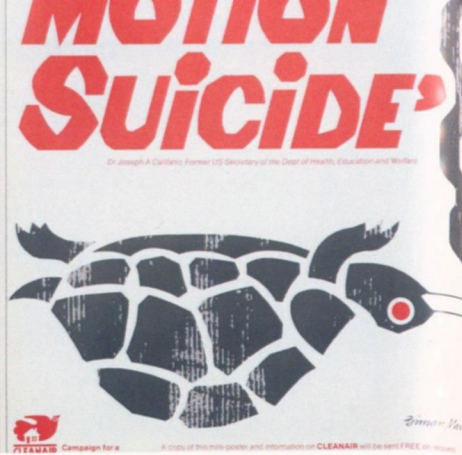
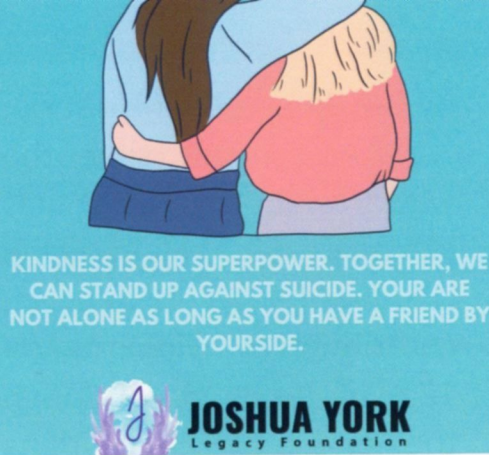
As a result, since the withdrawal, the WHO has lost nearly \$1.8 billion, as the U.S. was its largest financial contributor (providing nearly 18% of funding). Although the long term implications are hard to fully know, the move could undermine global efforts to address pandemics and health crises — additionally diminishing the U.S.'s ability to engage in global health initiatives and respond to international health concerns. Nebu Kolenchery, former Director of Communicable Disease Response at the St. Louis County Department of Health, emphasized that "it benefits Americans to have a global public health system be just as strong because diseases can come from anywhere... Like we found during COVID, [germs] don't really care about nation state borders."

Reduction in Federal Research Funding

Federal funding for public health research has faced significant cuts. At a federal level, the Center for Disease Control and the National Institutes of

Health have been heavily impacted by these changes. Notably, the NIH announced a cap on indirect expenses for research grants at 15%, a significant reduction from previous levels (roughly 27-28%). Indirect costs entail overhead expenses of research, such as laboratory maintenance, utilities and administrative costs (e.g. salaries). Essentially, they are expenses that are necessary for the success of a research project but are not specifically outlined within a grant. Reduced funding negatively impacts the progress of necessary research and directly leads to halts on projects. More recently, the CDC has gone through numerous rounds of layoffs due to





new budget constrictions — which has led to entire departments being put on “administrative leave.” Divisions focusing on HIV prevention, reproductive health, tuberculosis, environmental health, and gun violence are a few of the many divisions cut. This policy shift threatens the financial stability of research institutions nationwide, potentially slowing advancements in medical research and innovation. Research is the backbone of medical advancements, but federal cuts are threatening that progress.

At a state level, institutions such as the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, which heavily rely on federal grants, are facing potential setbacks in their cancer research projects. On potential impacts, Mr. Kolenchery explains that “cuts to the CDC

budget or the HHS budget... will deeply impact local health departments and state health departments, because that’s where a lot of their funding comes from.” Relating to COVID-19, Mr. Kolenchery noted that the increased investment for the pandemic response “helped public health departments build new systems, modernize and attract more people to the field,” warning that “taking away or reducing that funding will cause us to go backward on a lot of those advances.”

At SLU, student researchers are particularly at risk due to the impact of these budget cuts. Many of the reductions undermine the ability to provide compensation for research positions. As a result, an increasing number of students nationwide have reported losing either their compensation or their

positions entirely. One SLU student, who chose to remain anonymous, shared how the cuts have affected their work. This student was initially guaranteed compensation for their summer research position, but due to the current changes, not only have they lost that guarantee, but the position itself has also been eliminated. They share that “as a premed student, research is very important for our med school application... So with NIH funding cuts, it’s very hard to find any labs that are accepting new students, which is a point of major stress.”

Despite how all encompassing these changes may be, these challenges aren’t new. These current policies mirror historical precedents. In times that may feel uncertain, it may be helpful to some to see that changes

like this have occurred in the past, albeit being slightly unprecedented. For example, during Ronald Reagan's presidency, public health programs (CDC and NIH) saw immense funding cuts, leading to a slow response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. The administration's reluctance to acknowledge the epidemic and commit funding exacerbated the crisis, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities. Similarly, George W. Bush's administration also limited further growth by capping NIH spending, echoing current research funding freezes.

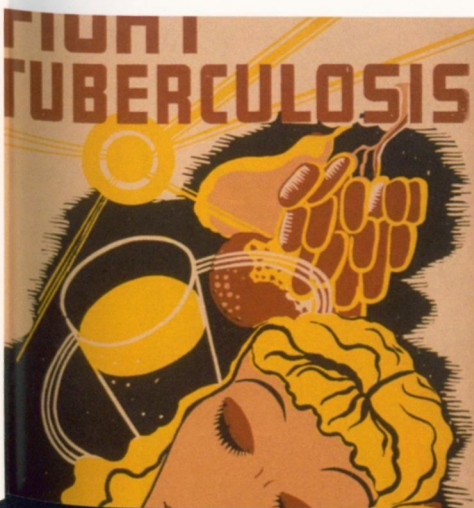
Efforts to Overturn the Affordable Care Act

A recently-passed House budget proposal includes potential cuts of \$880 billion from Medicaid

and the elimination of many essential health benefits requirements, allowing insurers to deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions and impose lifetime coverage limits. The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is a law that expanded access to healthcare and lowered costs. Millions rely on the ACA for access to affordable healthcare through their increased eligibility for Medicaid. Recent budget proposals threaten to cut Medicaid funding and remove protections for those with pre-existing conditions. This is not a new idea, as Trump and congressional Republicans attempted to dismantle the ACA multiple times during his first administration, culminating in the 2017 repeal of the individual mandate penalty (a tax penalty for not having health

insurance). Historically, the Bush administration also proposed similar Medicare reforms that pushed privatization. Likewise, Reagan promoted shifting federal health funding to block grants for states, reducing direct federal oversight and often leading to cuts in specific local/state services.

However, this disproportionately affects low-income individuals and communities of color, deepening health disparities. Families in rural areas or underserved urban neighborhoods are more likely to rely on Medicaid and essential health benefits. Additionally, individuals with chronic conditions, who are more prevalent in these communities, will be hit hard by the loss of coverage protections. Kolenchery provided a hypothetical example relevant to the



St. Louis region, explaining that a reduction of public health funding at the St. Louis County Department of Health “might mean that they can’t do flu vaccination clinics in three places. They might only do [one].” He elaborated that “what that means is that people in poorer zip codes that don’t have access to transportation have to work much harder to get the same vaccine than they did when it was in multiple places.” He additionally noted that any reduction in public health funding “disproportionately impacts lower income communities, which are more likely to be communities of color in St. Louis, and marginalized or

rural communities in the rest of Missouri, where there might not be as prompt healthcare access.”

Kolenchery also pointed out that populations with lower health literacy may have even more difficulty accessing services. He emphasized that “letting the sick get sicker costs more money and results in a far higher cost to society than just investing in basic public health services that keeps them healthy to begin with.” Overall, these rollbacks could undo progress made in expanding healthcare coverage over the past decade, leaving millions of Americans uninsured.

Future Implications

The consequences of these policies are far-reaching, and the stakes are high. With fewer resources for research and reduced access to care, public health crises will only worsen. A rise in uninsured populations, reduced pandemic preparedness, delayed breakthroughs in disease treatment, and widening health disparities are likely. Communities already marginalized will bear the brunt of these consequences. Additionally, as the U.S. steps back from global health leadership, international policy decisions that directly



impact American citizens will continue to be made — but without their representation or input, putting them at risk.

To take a step back, much of what I have presented thus far has been facts and evidence-based information. However, at a core level, public health isn't just about policies and statistics — it's about people. It's about the neighbor who can't afford their medication, the parent skipping a doctor's visit because of high costs, and the communities left behind by systemic disparities. In the United States, recent political decisions are making these challenges even harder to overcome. From withdrawing from

global health partnerships to slashing funding for life-saving research, the impacts are both immediate and long-term. During these times, it's important to remember that public health is about all of us. Together, we can fight for a system that values equity, science and the right to health for every person. The time to act is now.

What Can You Do?

Stay Informed: Follow reliable news sources (e.g. Reuters, Associated Press) and listen to public health professionals' advice. For public health specific news, I would recommend the following organizations' webpages and/or social media: CDC, WHO, NIH, and the American Public Health Association.

Advocate: Contact your elected officials and voice support for equitable healthcare policies. Although this may seem daunting, simply searching mo.gov (for Missouri) and going to the "Elected Officials" tab will give you necessary information for each office's channels of communication.



Support Community Efforts: Contribute to local health organizations, volunteer, or join mutual aid networks. For those unfamiliar, mutual aid is a voluntary model where people can come together to share resources to support those in their communities. This is especially prevalent when other means of obtaining support or compensation are unavailable. Some St. Louis-specific organizations to look into are STL Mutual Aid, Casa De Salud and SLU's Center for Social Action, just to name a few.

**Note: All information and updates in this article are accurate as of the time of writing. Due to the evolving nature of public health policy, some details may change over time.*



KINDLING THE RESISTANCE



Elina Reed

She/Her

Sophomore | Elementary Education |
American Studies & Linguistics

For my article, I chose to write a poem because I believe that writing poetry is an act of resistance. Poetry has the power to encourage critical reflection for its readers. It can evoke empathy and foster a deeper understanding of the world around us. Through this poem, I seek to challenge injustice and advocate for the intellectual freedom that is found in reading banned books.



The pages are calling, their voices clear,
A message of freedom we must hold dear.

The pen, a sword to carve the mind,
Opening hearts once thought confined.

But we hold the power, we have the might,
To stand for justice, to fight for light.

No more shadows, no more fear,
Let every voice and story appear.

Demand the freedom to read, to learn,
Let the flames of knowledge burn.
Speak out, rise up, don't turn away,
For every book is worth the fight today.

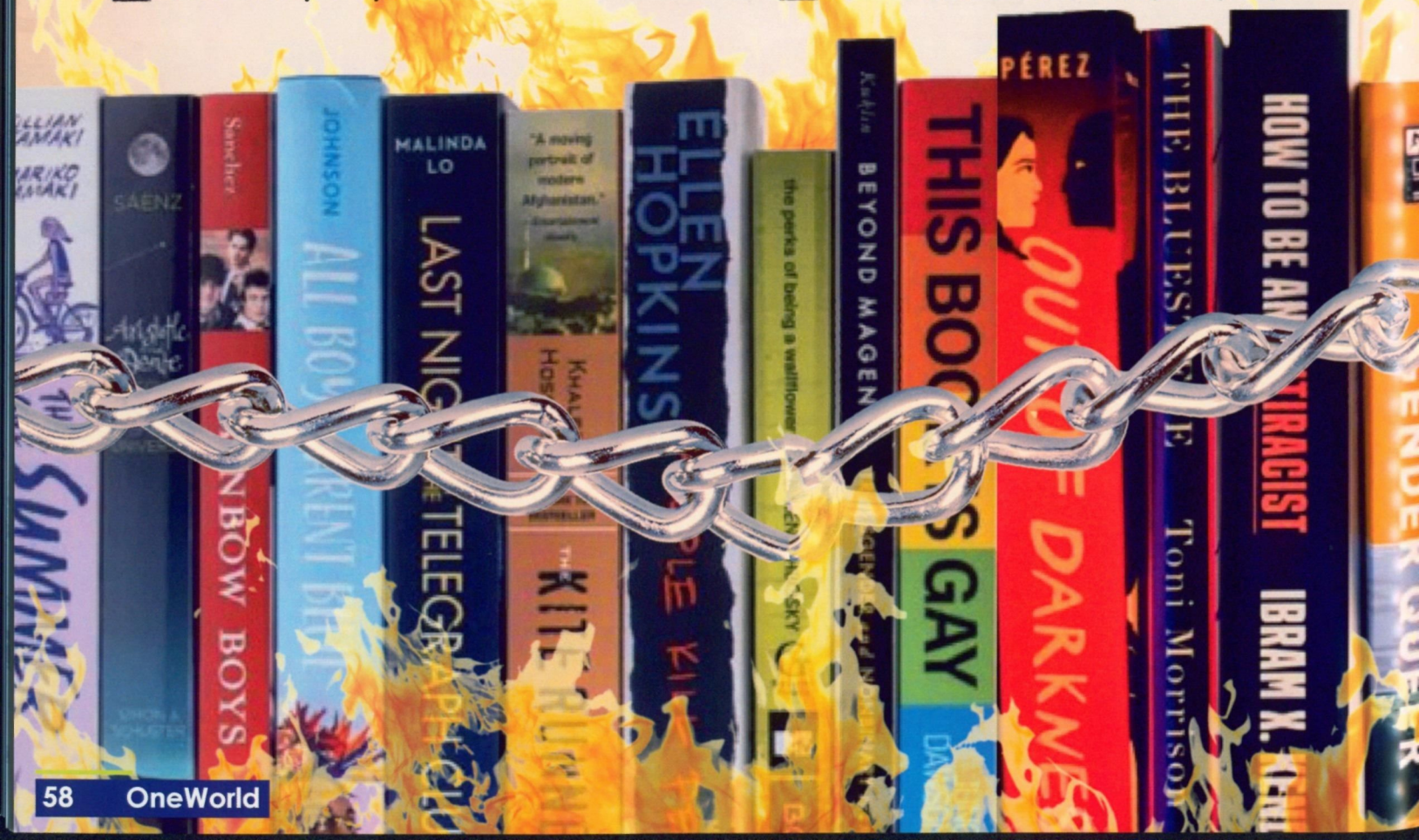
A world of pages, torn and sealed,
Where questions arise and truths are healed.
Beneath the covers, we could see,
A mirror of humanity.

The books still whisper in the night,
Their stories live, their voices fight.
Together, we reclaim the space,
Where every voice has its place.

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Compiled from the American Library Association & PEN America

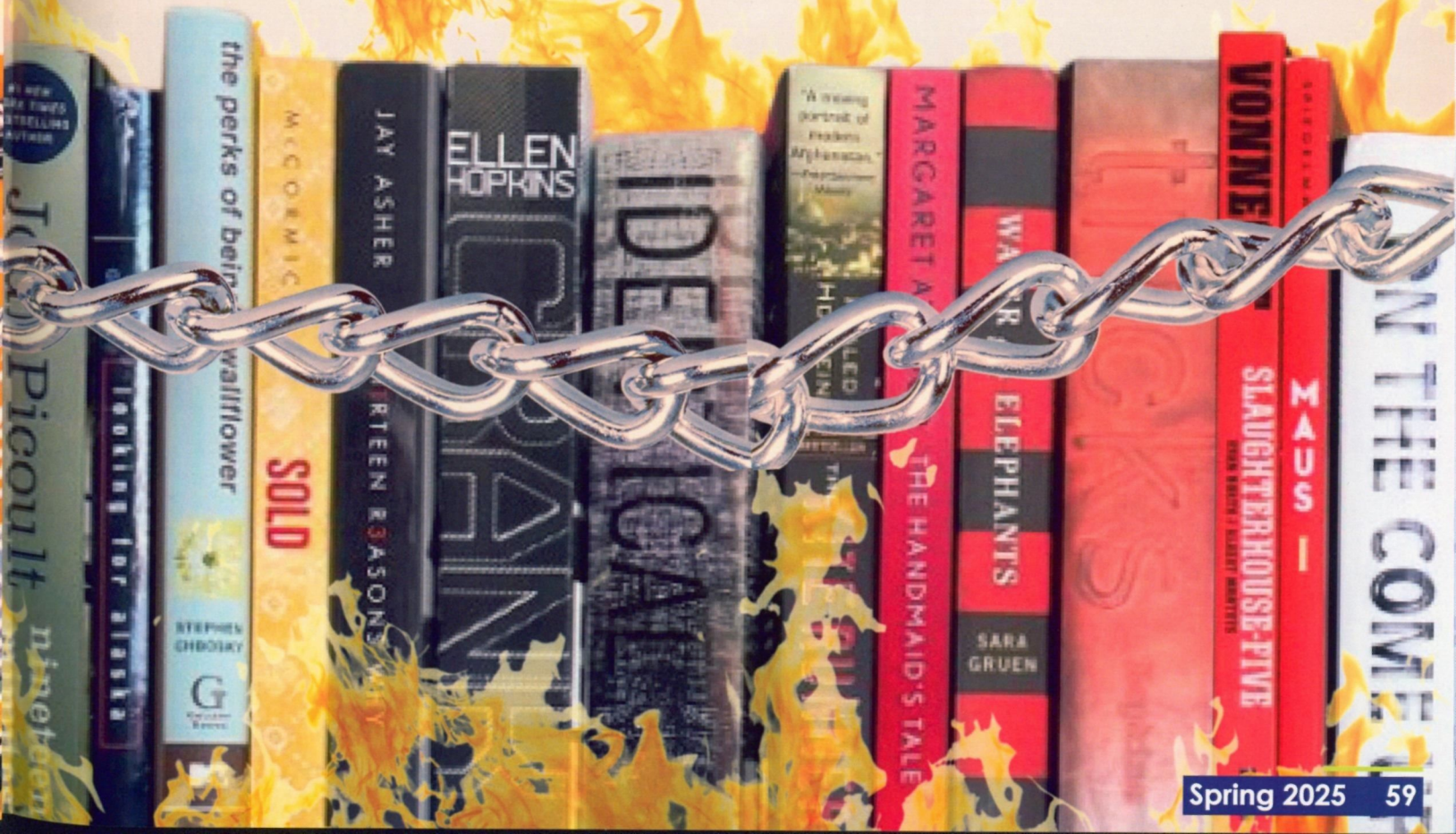
- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Looking for Alaska by John Green, 2005 | ☐ The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger, 1951 |
| ☐ The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison, 1970 | ☐ The Color Purple by Alice Walker, 1982 |
| ☐ The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, 2008 | ☐ Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell, 2012 |
| ☐ The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky, 1999 | ☐ The Giver by Lois Lowry, 1993 |
| ☐ To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, 1960 | ☐ Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, 1947 |
| ☐ Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck, 1937 | ☐ 1984 by George Orwell, 1949 |
| ☐ The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood, 1985 | ☐ I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, 1969 |
| ☐ The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas, 2017 | ☐ Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks, 2001 |
| ☐ The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, 1884 | ☐ The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls, 2005 |
| ☐ The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien, 1990 | ☐ The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, 2003 |
| ☐ Sold by Patricia McCormick, 2006 | ☐ Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling, 1997 |
| ☐ A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle, 1962 | ☐ A Time to Kill by John Grisham, 1989 |
| ☐ Go Ask Alice by Anonymous, 1971 | ☐ Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume, 1970 |



RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Compiled from the American Library Association & PEN America

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, 1953 | ☐ Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher, 2007 |
| ☐ Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson, 1977 | ☐ Crank by Ellen Hopkins, 2004 |
| ☐ The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, 1967 | ☐ Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen, 2006 |
| ☐ We All Fall Down by Robert Cormier, 1991 | ☐ Gender Queer: A Memoir by Maia Kobabe, 2019 |
| ☐ Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes, 1959 | ☐ Identical by Ellen Hopkins, 2008 |
| ☐ James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl, 1961 | ☐ All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson, 2020 |
| ☐ Animal Farm by George Orwell, 1945 | ☐ Out of Darkness by Ashley Hope Pérez, 2015 |
| ☐ Lord of the Flies by Robin H. Harris, 1954 | ☐ Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews, 2012 |
| ☐ Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson, 1999 | ☐ Call Me By Your Name by André Aciman, 2007 |
| ☐ A Child Called "It" by Dave Pelzer, 1995 | ☐ The Freedom Writers Diary by Erin Gruwell, 1999 |
| ☐ Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi, 2000 | ☐ Ugly Love by Colleen Hoover, 2014 |
| ☐ The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis, 1950 | ☐ Ace of Spades by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé, 2021 |
| ☐ A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess, 1962 | ☐ The Sun and Her Flowers by Rupi Kaur, 2017 |



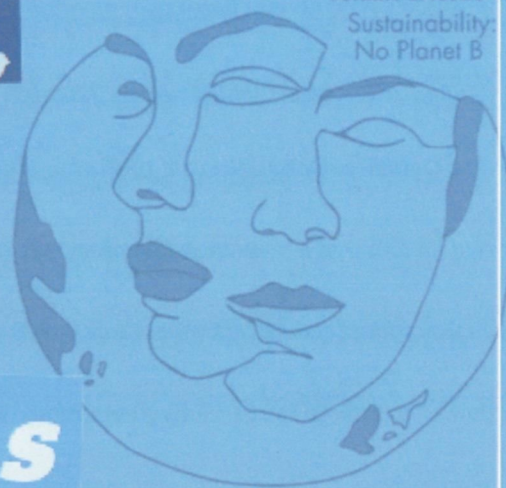
printing,

power,

Progress

GEN-ZiNE

Volume 1, Issue 4,
Sustainability:
No Planet B



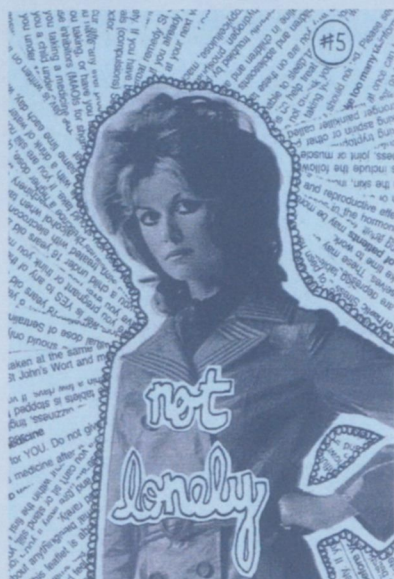
Aileen O'Connor

She/Her

Senior | English & American Studies



evolved throughout the 1960s and 70s, alternative scenes in metropolitan cities began creating zines that matched the aesthetic of the DIY culture at the time. Punk DIY culture emerged in the 1970s, primarily among working class young adults, and was founded on anti-authoritarian beliefs. It rejected capitalism and

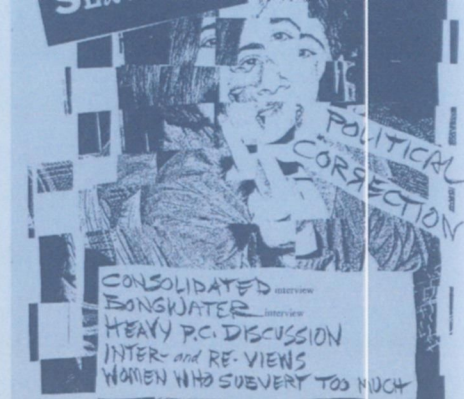


any kind of conformity. Zines from this era were often simple in design to focus attention on the message itself, establishing the stylistic techniques that are still visible in many contemporary zines. Often hand-drawn and then copied at local shops, these early zines rejected any kind of commercial reliance, even in their physical production.

Zines, as many would

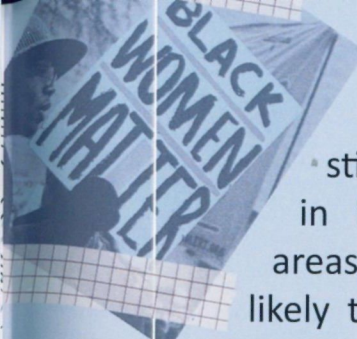
still define them today, must be self-produced. They are not tied to any larger publisher or corporation that oversees the content, and their distribution circle is usually a small audience, generally a niche or local community. This inherent independence has allowed zines to play a critical role in distributing information at critical moments in American history. Their small size and relatively low cost has allowed activists to spread critical awareness quickly and covertly. Zines from movements for civil rights, feminism, gay liberation, and countless others can be found in museums across the country. They are distributed today to advocate for safe protesting methods or provide instructions for political action, both digitally and in person.

The digital era changed all forms of communication and media distribution, and zines were no exception. While many artists still choose to print their zines physically, the popularity of digitally made or distributed zines has undeniably increased. In a 2019 interview with Upping the Anti, Indigenous artist and



activist Gord Hill evaluated the benefits and drawbacks of this convergence between social media and the traditional process of printing and distributing zines. He recognized that the immediacy of social media allows artists to distribute their zines to wider audiences at little to no cost. At the same time, the public nature of physical zines allowed for the content to reach people who might not already agree with the statements. An Instagram post might reach more people, but it is likely that those following the artists or coming across it on their feed are likely to have some familiarity with the concepts or ideology driving the zine. Zines handed out on the street, like spray paint on





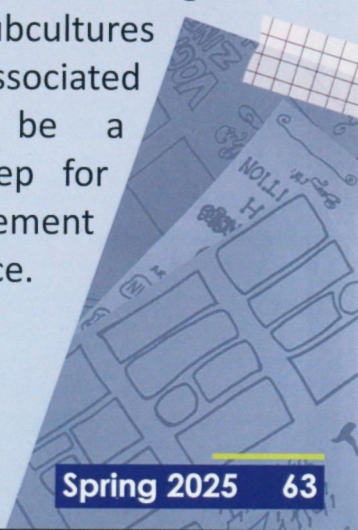
walls or stickers left in high traffic areas, are more likely to reach an audience with a diverse range of existing knowledge, even if they are limited to a smaller geographic region.

St. Louis is home to a robust arts scene, and the city's zine culture is no exception. Their distribution has had a resurgence in the last few years, with several local establishments helping to facilitate the circulation of independently printed items. Swan Meadow, for example, is a queer art co-op offering environmentally-friendly printing and frequent workshops. The central branch of the St. Louis Public Library has a collection of primarily contemporary local zines that can be checked out by any cardholder. Zines are handed out at protests and community gatherings, providing general safety guidelines and legal advice specific to the

city. These sources put critical information directly into the hands of people who would benefit most from it, and allow people to keep a physical copy with them, even in situations where they might not have access to their phones.

As stories of censorship, increasingly evil CEOs and constant advertisements make traditional social media platforms less appealing by the day, zines can be a promising supplement. Platforms like Instagram and TikTok are difficult to avoid entirely, but it is important to recognize that they are not unbiased sources of information. Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter, for example, led to changes in the content moderation policy in an attempt to shift the app's "liberal bias." Countless creators on virtually all major platforms have reported a sudden decrease in viewership after posting about attacks on Palestine or criticisms of the United States government. While social media can allow a message to reach a wider audience, these instances of censorship are leading many to recognize that traditional

social media is not the radical tool it was once thought to be. Distributing information physically, such as with a zine, allows a creator to spread their message without a third party facilitating and potentially impeding the transfer. Almost as critical is the tangibility of zines, as the receiver owns a physical copy that can not be arbitrarily deleted or restricted. While their tendency to be circulated among smaller communities might seem counterintuitive to engaging large movements, the success of social change before the internet proves otherwise. No individual medium or style of distribution can single handedly shape a movement, but paying attention to zine exchanges and the subcultures they are associated with can be a powerful step for local engagement and resistance.



World of Warrants



Ava Walker

She/Her

Sophomore | Political Science |
Criminology & Criminal Justice

After the 2024 presidential election, Immigration and Customs Enforcement began a power trip. Border Czar Tom Homan conducted raids in Chicago while President Trump's administration ran off his claim,

"We're going to take the handcuffs off ICE,"

according to NPR. Then, the official White House X account shared an ASMR deportation video, followed by hundreds of immigrants being deported under the 18th century wartime law,

the Alien Enemies Act, despite a federal judge issuing an order to prevent it. Presidential administrations are no strangers when it comes to enacting "tough-on crime" immigration policies.

In the 1900s, the United States enacted laws such as the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 and the Immigration Act of 1924, under which immigration was regulated by quotas, determining how many people from certain groups or countries could migrate to the U.S. The laws would favor predominantly white Europeans until former President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Immigration and

Nationality Act of 1965, which repealed the United States' national quota system. However, before then, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 overhauled and restructured immigration law. The subsequent presidential administrations since then would go on to enact unilateral authority over immigration policy through executive orders. This is a presidential power that's subject to judicial review and can be struck down if it is unconstitutional or the president lacks the authority to issue it.

Usted tiene derechos constitucionales:
• NO ABRA LA PUERTA. Si un agente de inmigración está tocando la puerta.
• NO CONTESTE NINGUNA PREGUNTA. Usted tiene el derecho de mantenerse callado.
• NO FIRME NADA. Si un agente de inmigración le pide que firme, usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado. Usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.
• Si usted está afuera de su casa, puede irse si es libre para irse y si dice que sí, váyase con tranquilidad. Si usted está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta de identificación de la puerta.
www.RedCardOrders.com



Under President Trump, however, the world is witnessing an open defiance to the courts and legal system by a man who claims that he's above the law. America now lives in a world of warrants where ICE flexes their authority like an unbreakable power. However, it's important to remember that ICE and their warrants are lacking in force; everyone has rights.

A warrant, as defined by Luminus, an organization that empowers immigrants through legal and social services, is a legal document authorizing law enforcement to take specific actions. Warrants are typically issued for conducting searches, making arrests or seizing property. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has three main agencies: ICE, Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. There are two types of warrants that can be used to enforce immigration laws and policies: judicial and

administrative.

The National Immigration Law Center describes a judicial warrant as an order issued by a judicial court or judge that authorizes law enforcement to carry out an arrest, seizure or search. Such warrants must be complied with. In contrast, an administrative warrant is a document from a federal agency, like DHS or ICE, for an arrest or seizure. This warrant can be signed by an "immigration judge" or "immigration officer." This essentially means that the warrant is not signed by a neutral judge or magistrate. The National Immigration Law Center makes it clear that a warrant signed by an "immigration judge" does not make it a judicial warrant.

The important distinction between the two warrants, besides the authorizing body, is that an administrative warrant does not authorize a search. According to Project South, an institute for the elimination of poverty and genocide, this means that an administrative warrant does not give ICE officials the necessary legal authority to enter a place non-consensually

when there's a reasonable expectation of privacy. The Legal Information Institute defines reasonable expectation of privacy by the legal test created in "Katz v. United States." According to Justice Harlan, a reasonable expectation of privacy exists if "the individual has exhibited an actual (subjective) expectation of privacy" and "the expectation is one that society is prepared to recognize as reasonable."

For example, if ICE shows up to a place of residence or a non-public area, and they have an administrative warrant, then their authority is limited. Nobody needs to consent to entry without a judicial warrant because there is a reasonable expectation of privacy under the law. Thus,



this warrant, by itself, does not necessarily impose any legal requirement to comply with ICE's demands. So, if ICE shows up to a place where one has a reasonable expectation of privacy and they have an administrative warrant, then they cannot enter to make a search or arrest without consent.

An individual could distinguish a judicial warrant from an administrative warrant by noting that a judicial warrant will include the specific address to be searched, along with the specific time period during which that search must take place. Additionally, the place and/or person to be searched or seized will be documented. The two warrants have distinguishing formats as well.

An administrative warrant ultimately contrasts from a judicial warrant in that

there's no immediate need to comply with it. This is because, according to the National Immigration Law Center, penalties for failure to comply would only occur if the issuer of the subpoena took additional steps. In other words, compliance is not mandatory unless a separate and additional judicial court order requires compliance with the subpoena issued. By itself, however, the administrative warrant does not mandate necessary compliance.

It's important to remember that, as Luminus points out, ICE rarely has a judicial warrant. Thus, to enter a private space and make an arrest, they may use tactics such as trickery or intimidation to obtain the required consent to enter. For example, according to the Immigrant Defense Project, ICE agents will dress similar to local police agencies and claim that their target's identity was stolen and they need to contact

them, or that they're investigating a crime involving them. Other times, ICE agents may force themselves through doors if opened, or show their weapons to intimidate whoever is present. And, make no mistake, ICE officials are aware they need consent, which is made clear by the Immigrant Defense Project:

"Because neither a Warrant for Arrest of Alien (1-200) nor an administrative Warrant of Removal (1-205) authorizes you to enter the subject's residence or anywhere else affording a reasonable expectation of privacy, you must obtain voluntary consent before entering a residence."

— ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations, Fugitive Operations Handbook, July 23, 2010.



Because of the potential for trickery, ruses, and intimidation, it is increasingly important to know your rights and know how to respond if ICE, CPS or USCIS shows up at your door.

Usted tiene derechos constitucionales:

- **NO ABRA LA PUERTA** si un agente de inmigración está tocando la puerta.
- **NO CONTESTE NINGUNA PREGUNTA** de un agente de inmigración si trata de hablar con usted. Usted tiene el derecho a guardar silencio.
- **NO FIRME NADA** sin antes hablar con un abogado. Usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.
- Si usted está fuera de su casa, pregúntele al agente si tiene la libertad de irse y si le dice que sí, váyase con tranquilidad.
- **ENTRÉGUELE ESTA TARJETA EL AGENTE.** Si usted está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta por la ventana o pásela debajo de la puerta.

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- Si usted está fuera de su casa, pregúntele al agente si tiene la libertad de irse y si le dice que sí, váyase con tranquilidad.
- **ENTRÉGUELE ESTA TARJETA EL AGENTE.** Si usted está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta por la ventana o pásela debajo de la puerta.

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike

Avoid opening the door, as it can be interpreted as consent to entry. Instead, ask the agents to slide any documents under the door, show them through a window, or through a doorbell camera. If you do open the door, then express that you don't consent to a search of your home or entry.

If you have an attorney, then contact them. You can have them communicate with ICE, or other officials from DHS agencies, on speakerphone (ideally through the door). If you don't have an attorney, then seek legal assistance immediately.

- The Immigration Advocates Network has a National Immigration Legal Services Directory which provides only nonprofit organizations that offer free or low-cost legal services by state, county or detention facility.

If you're presented with a document, then examine it carefully to determine if it's a judicial versus administrative warrant or subpoena. This essentially dictates your right to refuse entry and compliance. Confirm the names on the warrant and make sure they are correctly spelled.

Remain silent as this is your right with judicial or administrative warrants.

- Do not answer questions about your immigration status, where you were born, your immigration history, or your criminal record if that applies.
- Don't lie or give false documents, as that may lead to criminal prosecution. Be clear and calm about not wanting to talk to them or answer their questions.
- You don't have to provide your passport or consular documents unless ICE has a search warrant listing those items.
- Don't answer questions or sign anything without an attorney present.

Avoid signing any documents presented by immigration officers or officials without first obtaining and consulting an attorney.

If you're able to safely do so, then document the encounter by taking notes, collecting badge numbers or names of the agents, or recording a video if your state, such as Missouri, legally permits you to do so.

- Contact the St. Louis Rapid Response Line at 314-370-7080 for reporting ICE activity in the St. Louis area.
- Check the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights for a list of national, state and local deportation defense hotlines for services such as reporting ICE raids, missing migrants and seeking help.





This is a highly condensed summary sheet from “‘We Keep Us Safe:’ OneWorld x CSA Protest Safety Workshop.” It is not all-encompassing. The below was sourced from NRDC, NLG, ACLU, Wired and FIRE. Visit those sources for more detailed information.

PREPARING FOR A PROTEST

1. **Protect your identity:** cover identifiable tattoos or scars. You may choose to wear a mask. Wear nondescript clothing.
2. **Write down the following numbers**, either on a separate piece of paper or on your body.
 - a. STL Jail Support (or your local jail support): 314-312-0836
 - b. Legal council or an attorney. Several law firms offer pro bono representation for arrested protesters. Research the firms in your area.
 - c. Emergency contact. They should know your full legal name, DOB, any medical needs, and your whereabouts before a protest. They should not be at the protest.
3. **Always research the demonstration.** Who are the organizers? Is the route available? Where are the exits?
 - a. If you are bringing your phone, you can download any information, such as a local map.
4. **Secure your device** or use an alternative device. Disable biometric passwords: face and fingerprint.
 - a. Disable 2G on your phone.
 - i. iPhone iOS17: Settings → Privacy & Security → Turn on Lockdown Mode
 - ii. Android: Settings → Network & Internet → SIMS → Your Carrier → Turn off the Allow 2G option
 - b. Put on airplane mode. Note: there is currently evolving information on the effectiveness of this.
5. **Bring:** Cash, ID, a few days' worth of essential medications, and a buddy. Do not wear contact lenses. Dress appropriately for the weather.

AT A DEMONSTRATION

1. **Stay vigilant.** Always know where your buddy is. Always know where the exits are. Listen to the organizers and any staff they have. They are usually identifiable through vests/other apparel.
2. **Do not** connect to any local wifi or turn your data on.
3. **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.** The following includes direct wording from the above sources.
 - a. Police need a warrant to search your phone. However, biometric passwords are an exception.
 - b. If police have reasonable suspicion that you are involved in or about to commit criminal activity, they can frisk your outer clothing to search for weapons.
 - c. Unless entering a secure area, police can only search bags if they have probable cause that it contains contraband, weapons or evidence of illegal activity.
 - d. When you are lawfully present in any public space, you have the right to photograph anything in plain view, including federal buildings and the police. (On private property, the owner may set rules about photography or video.) If you take photos and videos, do so while your phone is locked.
 - e. Police may not break up a gathering unless there is a clear and present danger of riot, disorder, interference with traffic, or other immediate threat to public safety. If officers issue a dispersal order, they must provide a reasonable opportunity to comply, including sufficient time and a clear, unobstructed exit path. You must obey such an order or risk arrest.
 - f. The First Amendment broadly protects speech, including controversial viewpoints and criticism of virtually anything, including government officials, but there are limits. You can be arrested for encouraging “imminent” violence or other immediate illegal activities that threaten harm to people or property. Violence or property destruction (i.e., criminal activity) does not become constitutional simply because you do it while expressing a political message.



Did you enjoy those articles? Maybe they inspired you to write using your own voice?



Have a cool story to tell?

Is Social Justice your passion?

Do you need a platform for your voice?

Secretly enjoy editing articles and looking for grammar errors?

Have an artistic soul and love graphic design?



You could be our next writer, designer, or editor!

Join our OneWorld Team
Be part of SLU's Change



OUR MISSION

We are already one, but we imagine that we are not. OneWorld exists to rediscover that, while we are many in our cultures, religions, and struggles, we are one in our common humanity. We yearn to remove the barriers of ignorance and injustice, because the most basic and unchanging truth that unites us is the infinite value of the human person. OneWorld emphasizes this unity by raising awareness of social injustice, inspiring action and transforming our hearts, minds, and society.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



The support of OneWorld's sponsors ensure that our organization will continue to grow and become a more sustainable and meaningful community project. We're in the process of updating our email address. Message our Instagram for all questions and offers.



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"We live in capitalism, its power seems inescapable - but then, so did the divine right of kings. Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings. Resistance and change often begin in art. Very often in our art, the art of words."

- Ursula K. Le Guin